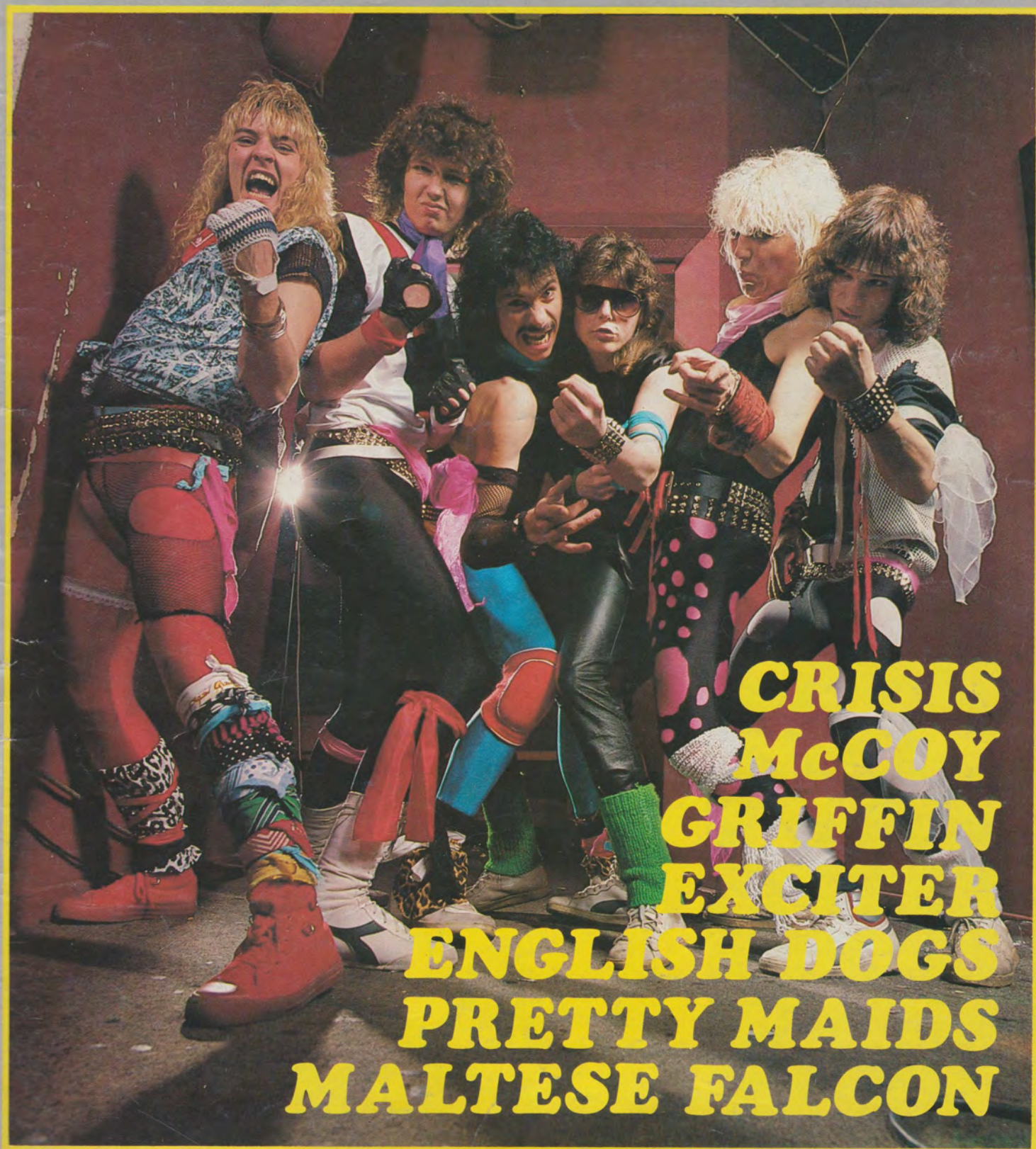


METAL FORCES

No. 11

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**CRISIS
McCOY
GRIFFIN
EXCITER
ENGLISH DOGS
PRETTY MAIDS
MALTESE FALCON**

DAVE REYNOLDS, Armed To The Teeth, Tackles Salt Lake City's CRISIS

It's not often I get thrown in at the deep end and have to do an interview with a band I know little or nothing about. In the case of CRISIS all I knew about them was due to their six-track album released on Bullet last year.

At the beginning of March the trio (Jeff Cross-guitar, Bret Desmond-drums and Dane Thomson-bass/vocals) were in London and MF, being on top of the underground metal scene in terms of band coverage it was only natural for someone here to get together with the guys for an interview - another exclusive?

Actually I wasn't that impressed with the "Armed To The Teeth" record, it being a little too raw and underproduced for my liking, but the six tracks displayed a good deal of enthusiasm and much reliance on TED NUGENT, RAVEN and ANVIL influences. They obviously enjoyed themselves.

First a quick resume of the band Jeff? (Trying to make himself heard over a blistering attack of Autograph on the sonic Shades deck. Thanks Dave!) "Well we formed in 1980. We had various lead singers and we were doing quite well with one lead singer before he managed to wreck his car and kill himself, so Dane took over the vocals and we decided to stay a three piece. We produced our first demo, Bullet picked it up and decided to release it to our amazement - it was rough!"

What about the TED NUGENT, RAVEN and ANVIL influences? These are acknowledged. All three are fans of these bands but what's the scene like in Salt Lake City? Those of a religious nature should know this is the Mormon capital of the world. Jeff: "There's more of a Heavy Metal scene than you might expect." Dane: "There's a lot of bands but it's mostly copy bands. There's good talent but there's nobody trying to push out an album or anything." Bret: "There are about six or so bands who have released an album or single but they're just sold locally." Jeff: "Mostly these bands release something then they split up, you go out and buy

the album and you hear 'em say 'we're through'."

Dane: "I wish we had some place back home like the Marquee y'know. You usually have to put on shows yourselves, fork out all the money, but we've done it several times very successfully."

Jeff: "Local radio brought in EXCITER and we supported them. We get the major bands coming through Salt Lake; PRIEST and MAIDEN come through every year and they can sell 15,000 seats or more, so there is a market there."

So who are your favourites (apart from the aforementioned). Who did CRISIS grow up listening to? Jeff: "Three very different forms. A real mixture."

Bret: "I go for the OSMONDS!" (Laughter all round!)

Jeff: "THE STONES, KISS and I really admire RORY GALLAGHER's chunky rhythm and solo sound."

Bret: "I play my drums after Neal Peart and John Bonham."

Dane: "I was brought up listening to CROSBY, STILLS and NASH, along with BREAD. Then I got into BLACK SABBATH, then I went into PRIEST. Now I really like David Coverdale and WHITESNAKE a lot. They warmed up for QUIET RIOT when we saw 'em!"

Bret was lucky enough to have seen ANGEL, albeit the white ones last tour sans

the white clothing. Some people are just sickening!!

Anyway following on from "Armed To The Teeth" CRISIS are due to release their new album "Metal Meltdown". An advance tape was given to me and I've constantly played it ever since - it's a massive improvement on the debut release (which after all, as stated earlier WAS a demo) reviewed by Bernard Doe in issue 5. Naturally that got slagged in Kerrang! near enough. Just out of interest I asked the bands views on that review? Dane: "Well we couldn't bitch but when they hit the religion, they really seem to think we all have halo's over our heads."

Bret: "I've talked to many of the bands who've gone through Salt Lake on tours and they really can't believe how wild the audiences are there."

Jeff: "OZZY does really well there. The Heavy Metal scene is strong, the stadium sells out 15,000 seats no problem."

Look out for "Metal Meltdown", it's out soon and, to borrow a phrase from AVENGER's Greg Reiter, Jeff's axe is packed on tunes the likes of "Kick It Out", "Pay The Price" and "Scene Of The Crime". One thing I forgot to ask the band is a question I'm sure that's on everybody's mind. Who is the buxomwench on the cover of "Armed To The Teeth"? I think we should be told!



SEMI-THRASH WITH A VENGEANCE

Griffin



KELV HELLRAZER Talks To GRIFFIN Frontman BILLY McKAY

The GRIFFIN in Greek mythology is known as the protector of truth and the protector of death; enter GRIFFIN the band, masters of semi-thrash. All I know is that any HM band that can turn me away from my Glam/AOR roots has got to be something special. Now a couple of months back, we had an onslaught of releases from Shrapnel records. We had HEXX, CHASTAIN, TRAUMA and GRIFFIN. All of them were metal of the finest pedigree, but it was GRIFFIN's that really caught my attention. With such classics as "Hawk The Slayer", "Heavy Metal Attack" and "Hell Runneth Over", it's no wonder that the LP is so popular with the Death Metal contingency down at Shades Records. It mixes the speed of IRON MAIDEN with the slow meaty riffs of ANGELWITCH to produce a deadly combination. The difference between GRIFFIN and all the other bands in this current death/thrash wave is that you can clearly hear that these boys are competent musicians.

They don't just get as many swear words as possible and see if they can stick them all into one song, no, GRIFFIN's songs are well structured and sound as if they have put time and effort into them. But in saying all this it sounds as if the band are AOR. No Chance! GRIFFIN has the power to please any metal head and stir him/her up into a metallic frenzy of wild stage diving ala Constable style.

Enter the voice of the beast Billy McKay; himself a heavy metal purist who prides himself on honesty, truth, respect and a never-ending drive for perfection. "GRIFFIN was formed six years ago, I met guitarist Rick Cooper on a tennis



Pic Joe Martino

court, and then things just took off from there really. At first we used the name SINISTER SAVAGE but we soon changed it to GRIFFIN. We had different people in the band at the time though, it was basically the fact that these people started with the right ideas but along the way they strayed from the original GRIFFIN concept so we had to get other people in, until we reached the present line-up. In 1982 we recorded a demo featuring "Hell Runneth Over" which is my favourite song on the LP. This demo was good for a first try but we knew we could do it heavier. Then we did the demo which was reviewed in MF a couple of issues back; this demo was a helluva lot better. We then picked up with JM Enterprises. Our present management."

How did the deal come together with Shrapnel Records? "Well our manager, Joe knew Mike Varney and got him interested in the band. He then heard what we

were like and obviously he liked us and hence the arrival of the LP. Our manager Joe Martino is a real hard working guy, I tell you, that guy is busting butt for us twenty four hours a day and it's his hard work that makes life a little easier for us."

Do you consider yourselves a part of the 'Death Metal' movement? "Yeah, I sure do, it feels like a real part of me and it is everything that I stand for. I'm really into the music 100% you know. I buy LP's by bands like SLAYER, EXODUS etc. They stock all of these LP's down at my local store and I like to keep tabs onto what is currently happening within the metal scene. The new SLAYER LP is really hot stuff. I really dig bands of this calibre. Yesterday I went to see VENOM with EXODUS and SLAYER supporting. VENOM were really good but SLAYER got one helluva reaction for a support band. VENOM may not excel or stand out as the greatest musicians in the world but they are a

great live band and their attitude is cool. Yeah, I rate them. GRIFFIN I really believe are part of this movement, we may not always play at one hundred miles per hour all the time, but basically it's the same idea."

Don't you think the band is gonna have to go more commercial to attract major record company interest? "Well I know it's obvious that the majors are not signing up real heavy bands by the bucket load. I know that companies have to make bands into sellable commodities. This is what stinks! I ain't gonna change my music, I'm into real hardcore heavy metal. OK so there is a place for commercial hard rock - I accept that. When you're tired and driving down the motorway the last thing I wanna hear is speed metal blowing my ears off. The majors are gonna have to take GRIFFIN as a HM band and nothing else. Sure I've seen other bands turn commercial, but a lot of the time it's due to signing bad deals that they can't get out of."

So what do you think of this 'Poser Metal' scene, that's happening down in LA at the moment? "Well I just think that the whole OTT thing of image and stuff has been taken to the limit now. How more outrageous can you get. Sure an image is real important, GRIFFIN doesn't go out of its way to ignore image. I just think it detracts from the music." So how come your bass player Tom Sprayberry has spikey hair ala CRUE? "Well, he just wants to show off to all the women I guess, or maybe the men as well (he laughs). No, Tom is a cool dude. Actually aside from



BILLY MCKAY



"YAZ" MICHAEL JASTREMSKI

Pic Harald Oimden

outrageous as far as image goes our second guitarist Yaz has outrageous onstage antics, which often acts as a cue for all the 'crazies' as he gets a variety of responses from the headbangers."

What was the response to your demo feature in MF? "Well it was remarkable, we had a lot of letters from all over the world it's amazing what some good press can do for you. Speaking of press in a different light I heard we got a bad LP review in Kerrang. Well I tell you Mike Varney is real upset and has taken it real bad. I've got to see it before I pass final judgement."

I read somewhere that the band were influenced by ANGELWITCH? "Well I tell you I love ANGELWITCH that band did a helluva lot for me. It's a real pity how things turned out for that band. They had so many good songs. It makes me sick what the music business does to certain bands. I'm sure if it wasn't for dodgy record deals then that band would have been up there rocking with the rest of them. Kevin Heybourne was such a good guitar player. It's just criminal what happened to them."

Finally, what's next on the agenda for GRIFFIN? "Well we would like to do our second LP with a major label. We need to have a big company behind us; so that we can carry out the things we wanna do. We would really like to play in Europe and see what the buzz on us in the UK etc is really all about." I wish the band luck and I hope they get a major deal real soon.

Write to GRIFFIN c/o JM Enterprises, P.O.Box 9806, San Rafael, CA 94912, USA.

Pic Harald Oimden



RICK WAGNER

Pic Harald Oimden

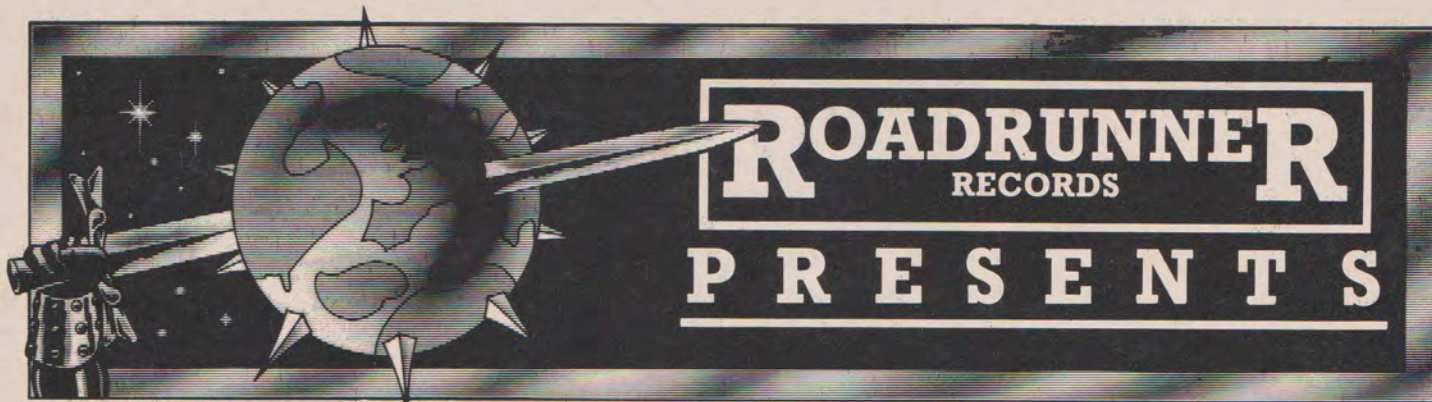


RICK COOPER

Pic Harald Oimden

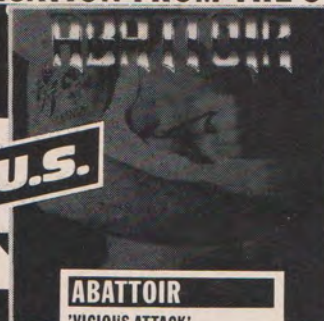


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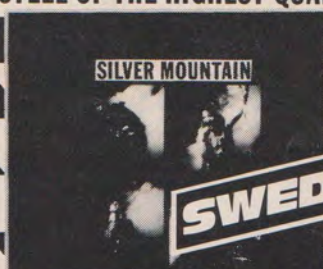


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EDITORIAL

So Britain gets its first "all metal" TV show. "This will not be a diluted Heavy Metal show" promised the organisers of 'ECT' - the 40 minute live Friday night programme on Channel 4. "This will be the real thing". Bullshit! If the likes of LORDS OF THE NEW CHURCH, TARAZARA, SNOWY WHITE and countless other rubbish that has appeared on the first half dozen or so shows are Heavy Metal then I must be a Rastaferian!

Quite clearly the organisers of ECT know sweet FA about metal. To appear on the show it appears to be a case of who you know, with connections in London a must.

Now METAL FORCES have always approved of the exposure of up-and-coming acts. But the quality of 'ECT's' line-ups leaves a lot to be desired. A majority of the shows consist of third rate British rock bands who would hardly gain a round of applause down at their local pub on a Sunday night, let alone a Madison Square Gardens like reaction that's overdubbed onto our screens above the tame applause from the handful of "rent-a-headbanger" in attendance - truly pathetic.

Surely the quality of the bands has got to improve drastically if 'ECT' can hope to gain any credibility from its dwindling TV audience. OK bands like GRIM REAPER, TYSON DOG, BLITZKRIEG, MAINEEAXE or even VENOM may not be to everybodys tastes but at least these bands can rightly be labelled HM. But why restrict the coverage to British bands or a couple of over hyped no-hoper US acts? What's wrong with the rest of Europe? Bands such as CROSSFIRE, KILLER, S.A.D.O., STEELER and of course PRETTY MAIDS. Have the organisers approached these bands? Indeed do they even know they exist? Of course not. Quite simply if we are to have an all-metal TV show on our screens then it should be organised by people who know about the music and not a bunch of ignorant arse-holes who insult all metal fans by thinking SNOWY WHITE etc., are prime metal fodder.

Come on 'ECT' - or should I say Channel 4 - get your act together before you've killed off any hope of true HM on our screens for good. Or don't you really care?

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All interested Advertisers should contact Bernard Doe at the above address for details of rates.

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PLAYLISTS

BERNARD DOE

1. Power From Hell-ONSLAUGHT (C.O.R.Records)
2. Executioners Song-RAZOR (Viper LP)
3. Break Your Back-ZOETROPE (Combat LP)
4. Killing Is My Business... -MEGADETH(MFN LP)
5. Helloween-HELLOWEEN (Noise Mini-LP)

DAVE CONSTABLE

1. Gypsy - STEVIE (CBS LP)
2. Long Live The Loud-EXCITER(MFN LP)
3. Fils De La Haine-KILLERS(Devils Records LP)
4. Hell Awaits - SLAYER (Roadrunner LP)
5. Prophet - PROPHET (Total Experience LP)

STEVE HAMMONDS

1. Bonded By Blood-EXODUS (MFN LP)
2. Everybody's Crazy - MICHAEL BOLTON (Columbia LP)
3. Crimes In Mind-STREETS(Atlantic LP)
4. Hell Awaits-SLAYER (Roadrunner LP)
5. SIN 45

KELV HELLRAZER

1. Surrender-JOSHUA(Tape of forthcoming LP)
2. Flight Of The Griffin-GRIFFIN (Shrapnel Records LP)
3. Turn To Stone-LEGS DIAMOND(From forthcoming LP)
4. Fire In The City-FRANK DIMINO'S TERRIFF (US DEMO)
5. Live At The Roxy-SUGARCREEK(Beaver Records LP)

DAVE REYNOLDS

1. Easy Action - EASY ACTION (Sire LP)
2. Contract With Hell - HAMMER (Ebony LP)
3. Made In Heaven - JAGWIRE (Target LP)
4. Rulin' The Earth-STEELER(Earthshaker LP)
5. Think Hard - McCOY (Mausoleum LP)

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BERNARD DOE

• If you're a HELSTAR fan, now there's twice as many HELSTARS to love. It seems there are two bands in Houston going under the name HELSTAR due to personnel changes in the band dating back to Christmas time. At that time, manager Oscar Pavon stepped down as manager of the band. Shortly after that, Paul Medina was let go as bassist. Pavon, who believes he owns the name HELSTAR, then pulled his drummer and brother, Hector Pavon out of HELSTAR and began to reform this band as the 'New HELSTAR'. As for the true and original HELSTAR, they have found excellent replacements and are doing just fine and getting ready to record their second LP for Combat Records.

• MEGADETH have a new guitarist, Mike Albert (ex-CAPTAIN BEEFHEART) who replaces Chris Poland, the session guitarist who appears on the band's debut album "Killing Is My Business... And Business Is Good!"

• Following a successful, but troubled North American tour, MERCYFUL FATE have split-up. Lead vocalist King Diamond has formed a new band simply entitled KING DIAMOND, that also features ex-FATE members Michael Denner (guitar) and Timi G. Hansen (bass) along with drummer Mickkey Dee (ex-GEISHA) and an as yet un-named Swedish guitarist.

• French ultra-speed metallist's MORSURE are currently seeking a lead guitarist before starting work on their 10-track debut album "Acceleration Process" which is set for worldwide release in July. Interested musicians should write to MORSURE c/o Denis Vanzetto, 11 Rue Childebert, 95100 Argenteuil, FRANCE.

• Wendy O'Williams is due to release a live EP subtly titled "Fuck'n'Roll" featuring songs such as "Bump And Grind" and "Ain't None Of Your Business". What label this record is to be released on is, as yet, unclear. Music For Nations, responsible for the UK release of Wendy's solo album appear not to be handling it.



FRANK DIMINO

• Frank Dimino's new band TERRISS has changed its name to TERRIFF. The 4 track demo has now been completed featuring "Aim For The Top", "Fire In The City", "Time Rider" and "Chain Drive". The demo was recorded at The Record Plant.

• Vocalist Karen Andrade has left SLIM WEAPON (featured in MF10) to pursue a modelling career. The LA based metallist's who have also replaced drummer Cam Daigneault with Tony Giraldo plan to carry on as a three-piece. Incidentally the band's contact address in the last issue was incomplete and anyone wanting more info on SLIM WEAPON should write to: 15913 Lassen St., Sepulveda, CA 91343, USA.

• Spenser Sercombe, SHARKS guitarist, informs METAL FORCES that the band are about ready to do their second LP. The band have also added a new guitarist K.Martin.K (ex-A'LA CARTE).

• POISON guitarist Ko Ko Smith has left the band due to personal problems. He has been replaced by C C Deville.

• MIDNITE VICE (featured in MF9) have parted company with guitarist Rob Furland and are currently seeking a replacement before going into the studio to record a new demo. The band, who describe their new image as "Cocky Millionaire Metal" can be contacted at:- 9551 Piermond Rd., Richmond, BC, CANADA, V7E 1N1.

• ENFORCER, featured in MF8, have parted company with Doug Trevison and are currently seeking a new vocalist. Those interested should phone (312)537 0276 or write to: 668 Pine Crest, Space 202, Prospect Heights, IL 60070, USA. This is also the new address of the band's fan-club where a limited quantity of their first demo is still available.

• SAVAGE GRACE have had their latest album, "Master Of Disguise", which has recently been released in Europe by Black Dragon Records, banned in the UK. It appears that some girls working at Rough Trade, the labels English distributor, threatened to go on strike if the company carried on with distributing the album, because of the "outrageous sleeve" showing a naked girl tied to a motorbike (see ad in MF 10). Black Dragon are currently seeking a new UK distributor for the album.

• New Jersey thrash merchants WHIPLASH are currently recording their debut EP. Tentatively entitled "Looking Death In The Face" the debut will include "Respect The Dead", "Last Man Alive", "Stirrin' The Cauldron" and re-recorded, twice as fast, version of "Spit On Your Grave" that was featured on the band's excellent demo reviewed in MF9.



• L.A. all-girl band PRECIOUS METAL (above) have just signed a major recording deal with Polygram Records and are currently in the studio recording their debut album, due for release in July.

• The release of the debut **HELLS BELLES** album, tentively entitled "Hunting Parties", has been put back to July or August. The band will also be featured on a compilation album with a track "Hells Belles" as well as being featured on a forthcoming compilation video that will also include **VENOM**.

• It appears that **METALLICA** are none too happy with the recent release of the "Whiplash" 12" EP by Megaforce, the bands former record company. Drummer **Lars Ulrich** informed **METAL FORCES** that the release went against an agreement that Megaforce made with the bands new record company **Elektra** whereby no more **METALLICA** material would be released by Megaforce following their split with the band late last year. The EP also features "Jump In The Fire" from the bands debut "Kill 'em All" album together with two live tracks - "Seek And Destroy" and "Phantom Lord", which was released as a 12" EP by Music For Nations in Europe early last year. However it's the first time the live tracks have been available in the US other than on import.

• Maryland quartet **DEUCE** will soon be recording their debut album for **Torrid Records**.

• Ex-**KISS** guitarist **Ace Frehley** faces four years imprisonment following his arrest in a New York drug store charged with trying to obtain drugs without a prescription. Frehley, currently trying to obtain a deal for his new band **FREHLEYS COMET** is already on 5 years probation for drunk driving.

• **ATTENTION:** The **CORRUPTIONS** and **INTENSE MUTILATIONS** of this world. California based **New Renaissance Records** are currently seeking twelve bands to appear on a compilation album entitled "The World's Worst Demo Tapes". All bands selected shall retain all of their rights and be paid a publishing royalty. Bands wishing to blow any creditability should send their tapes to: **Worlds Worst Demos**, c/o **New Renaissance Records**, P.O.Box 11372, Burbank, CA, 91501, USA.



• New Jersey Blood Metal Donors **OVERKILL**, have signed to Megaforce Records. The band, who are pictured

above at the signing, have begun working on their debut album which is set for a Fall release date.

• **PILEDRIIVER's** 'unique' debut album "Metal Inquisition" now has major distribution in the US and can be found in almost every record store you care to mention. It must be noted that some of the song-titles have been changed so as not to bring down too much of a fuss from the Anti-Satanists. Take note then that "Sex With Satan" is now known as "Lust", "Sodomize The Dead" becomes "Twister" and "Alien Rape" is changed to "Alien Raid". Fussy people those yanks!

• **WHITE LION** the band that once featured **ANGEL's** Felix Robinson will finally be releasing their debut LP "Fight To Survive". The bands line up have now been completed by ex-**AMERICA** man **Dave Spitz** on bass. The rest of the line-up features **Mike Tramp** (ex-**MABLE**) vocals, **Vitto Bratto** guitars and **Nicky Cappozzi** on drums. **Mike Tramp** informs **METAL FORCES** that the LP will be out on **Elektra** records soon. Watch out for a exclusive MF feature.

• **RUBY SLIPPERS** have a new bass player in the form of **D.J. (ex-HEAD ON)**. The band have also dropped keyboard player **Peter Kalz**.

• Classical-Horror metalist's **CHALICE** are currently seeking a new bassist and drummer. Interested parties should send tapes, bio's, pic's etc. to: **Full Moon Productions**, 891 Grove Avenue, Laurence Harbor, New Jersey 08879, USA or Tel. (201) 566-7455.

• German label **Earthshaker** are going to be busy during the coming summer months. Albums scheduled for release are the debut vinyl outings from **XXARON** "The Legacy"; **MAD BUTCHER** "Metal Lightning Attack"; **HUNTER** "Sign Of Satan"; **STAINLESS STEEL** "Steel In Your Back"; **CHAINSAW**, **OVERDOSE** and **BREAKER**.

Confirmed for August release are the second albums from **LIVING DEATH** and **BRAINFEVER**. If recent demo material by these two bands is anything to go by then everyone's in for a neck-breaking time we can assure you!

• Ex-**WHIPLASH** bassist **Pat Burns** has formed a new band that goes under the moniker of **SYBIL**, and play all original material in the **EXODUS**, **METALLICA** and **ANTHRAX** mould. The band, who also consist of **Pat "Nemo" Nemeth** (guitar) and **Marc Grossman** (drums), are currently auditioning for a lead vocalist. Any interested parties should call Pat on (201) 764 3552.

• Latest rumour on the US metal front is that **Mark Norton** (aka **St. John**) 'removed' from the **KISS** ranks in favour of **Bruce Kulick** is teaming up with **Barry Brandt** (ex-**ANGEL**) to form a new LA mega-group.

• New Jersey metal act **HADES** have a 60 minute tape featuring both live and studio material. A copy can be obtained by sending \$6.00 to: **HADES** c/o **Dan Lorenzo**, 276 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014, USA.



EXCITER

RIDERS FROM DARKNESS

BERNARD DOE Meets The Canadian Power Metal Trio

The last time EXCITER were on European soil was for that ill fated "Hell On Earth" tour last year, featuring EXCITER, METALLICA and THE RODS. Of course that tour didn't even get off the ground due to poor ticket sales, although they still managed to play one gig in the UK before they returned to Canada.

Shortly after their return EXCITER embarked on a successful American tour. But dur-

ing the tour some ill feeling crept in between themselves and their US record label, eventually resulting in EXCITER splitting with Megaforce and signing a worldwide deal with England's Music For Nations.

These events led to EXCITER returning, probably quicker than most of us thought, to the UK earlier this year to record their third album "Long Live The Loud" and play some European dates with

ACCEPT.

It was whilst at the end of their stay here in London that I met up with Dan Beehler (drums/vocals), John Ricci (guitar) and Allan Johnson (bass) to discuss recent events and I began by asking them their thoughts on that infamous Royal Standard gig on their last visit. Dan: "Looking back I think it was the wrong thing to do as it hurt us more than it done us good. Our following that was

there, understood that the PA was a piece of shit and that the monitor system blew up, and let us know that they were behind us no matter what. But the reviews we got from that gig hurt us more than anything. We should have just gone home after the "Hell On Earth" tour was cancelled instead of playing a gig at such short notice."

As well as Megaforce EXCITER also split from the guy who had been handling all their merchandising and promotions during their US tour. Now whatever the reasons it annoys me that so many bands turn their backs on the people who have spent their own time and money to promote a bands success because they, the band, feel the 'ordinary fan' cannot cope with the demand when a band starts breaking big. Instead of returning some of that initial help for the interests of both parties.

Having signed with Music For Nations, I wondered if EXCITER thought there was any advantages with a North American band having a deal with a European based label? John: "Definitely, because people in America think you're twice as good if you're signed to a British label. It's more prestigious."

"We're gonna get the best exposure and production we've ever had because Music For Nations are such a well established company. The album will still be released in the US and Canada on licence. So we've just about got every angle covered now."

So what about your new album "Long Live The Loud"? Dan: "It was recorded at the Britannia Row Studios in London and produced by Guy Bidmead who worked on MOTORHEAD's



DAN BEEHLER

"No Remorse" album. We feel that "Long, Live The Loud" is by far the best we've had so far and certainly a lot better than our last album."

You wasn't happy with "Violence And Force"? Dan: "Violence And Force" we thought was a piece of shit - it's not EXCITER. There's no fucking guitar, the vocals are dry... it's just terrible. The material we thought was fine, it's just the production."

Well those remarks about "Violence And Force" are completely contradictory to what they told us in MF4. But for me, production wise, out of the three EXCITER albums so far, I still prefer their first album "Heavy Metal Maniac" for its sheer heaviness and raw sound.

Anyway how did the gigs in Europe with ACCEPT go? Dan: "Very good. They treated us very, very well, always asking us during the tour if everything was OK and if we had enough room on stage. We were surprised, because we heard a lot of rumours on how we were gonna be treated before a gig."

"The crowd reactions were also great, especially in Germany and in Paris."

At Hammersmith Odeon EXCITER received one of the best receptions I've ever seen for a support act, but even so the band were still disappointed. Dan: "Yes we were, because when you've played in Germany in front of 6,000 people, and the whole place is on their feet going crazy with the kids singing all the lyrics to your songs. You then play the Hammersmith Odeon, it's like going from the top of the ladder right down to the bottom. It just drops in morale on stage because you're expecting that massive reaction and you've got to work three times as hard on stage to get the people into it."

Have you toured Canada

recently? John: "No not really. We don't concentrate on Canada like we do on the States. Why should we waste our time on playing to those people in Canada when they don't buy our records as much as the Europeans or Americans." Dan: "Montreal and Toronto, we practically sell out and they're two of the biggest cities around where we live. But anything else is not really worth doing as we would only be playing to around 300-400 people. Heavy Metal is getting bigger in Canada but it's not really as big as it is over here or in the States."

So where do EXCITER go from here? Dan: "We plan on touring the States again real soon. On our last tour we were playing to around 1,000 people a night so this time around we should attract around 1,500 people which is really good for a band who haven't had any promotion in the States."

On the vinyl front. EXCITER have just followed the release of their album with a 12" single "Feel The Knife" which is not from the album. The single will also include two live tracks. Whilst recording their album, the band also recorded a track entitled "Riders From Darkness." This is expected to appear on a, European only, compilation album later this year.

So the question has to be will EXCITER break big in 1985? For a band who have refused to compromise and have continued to be at the forefront of power metal they deserve their success and remain respected by the underground movement.



JOHN RICCI



ALLAN JOHNSON

PENBANGERS

METAL FORCES • 17 Livingstone Link • Chells • Stevenage • Herts SG2 0EP

SWITZERLAND's leading Death Merchant: The Lord Of Metal is lookin' for servants all over the world, to satisfy his ever-growing hunger for demo tapes. Only serious traders will be accepted! The Lord's faves include: Celtic Frost/Exodus/Metal Church/Hallows Eve and Helstar (only demo). Contact the Lord through: Andy Sieg-ris, Rathausgassli 35, CH-5600 Lenzburg AG, SWITZERLAND. P.S. Greetings to Johnny 'Mr. Metal' Hart + Metal K.O.!

I am a 16-year-old head-banger into AC/DC, WASP, Accept, Priest, Motorhead, D.Purple, Gillan, Rose Tattoo, Metallica, Boss, Kiss, Venom, T.Sister, Anvil, Slayer, Maiden, Leppard, Tank and many many more. Wanting to hear from head-bangers (especially from England) Please write to:- Peter Coyne, 314 High Street, Fremantle, W. AUSTRALIA, 6160.

RESTLESS and wild. 23-year-old male guitarist-poet desires attractive female/cool male correspondence. Please no half-steppin' wankers! Photo apprec! Into most all, esp: Accept, Scorpions, Uli, Yngwie, Warlock, Purple, Crystal Pride, etc. Bored? Burn it down and shoot it out to: Craig 'Gonzo' Littlefield, 1429 North Ing-lewood St, Arlington, VA 22205, USA.

FEMALE into Dio, Saxon, Maiden, Sabbath, WASP, T. Sister, Priest, Rainbow, Alcatraz, Y&T, Gary Moore, Sortilege, Whitesnake, Purple, L. Zeppelin..... wants penpals. Send photo if possible. Write to: Michelle Damour, 16 Rue Paul Valery, 91600 Savigny S/ Orge, FRANCE.

I'M a Brazilian headbanger and my fave bands are: Pic-ture, Witchfinder General, Trouble, Metallica, Anvil, The Rods, Accept, T.Sister, Tygers of Pan Tang, Savatage, Saxon and all bands of heavy metal! Write to: Julio De Toledo Lens, R. Evaristo Da Veiga Nr. 77, Ap. 33, Santos -SP-BRAZIL 11100.

I'M into Slayer, Metallica, Venom, Fate, Exciter, Anthrax, Voi Vod, Running Wild etc... I would like to have a penpal from California or England. Speaking French or English. Stephane Lebrun, 111 Nadeau Street, McMaster-ville, Quebec, J3G 1G7, CANADA

18-YEAR-OLD male has over 500 live metal tapes for trade. Have tapes of Venom, Metallica, Motorhead, Slayer, Fate, Anvil and tons more. I have many contacts worldwide and also have access to more great tapes. Interested? Then what the hell are you waiting for? Send for my list now (send trade material available) to: Mark Abbattista, 6515 Wydown Blvd, Box 3002, St. Louis, MO 63105, USA.

FOR trade: VHS PAL - Video recordings of: Metallica, Sweet Savage, Ozzy (with Rhoads), Slayer, Loudness Queensryche, Manowar, Tank, T.Sister, Savatage, Venom, Black Lace, Bow Wow, Jaguar, Frank Marino, Lee Aaron, M. Fate, Raven, Sortilege, Crue, Accept, Ocean, Angel-witch, Anvil, Europe, War-lock, Virgin Steele, Heavy Load, 220 Volt, OZ, Bitch, Alcatraz, Electric Sun and 600 more. Write to: Eric Verschoor, Luxemburglaan 67, 1946 SB Beverwijk, HOLLAND.

ATTENTION all metal thrashers into Metallica, Slayer, Exodus, Running Wild, Death Dealer, Destruction, M.Fate, Exciter and Overkill. I would like to buy/trade demos/live shows. Your list gets mine. No Wimps! Write!! Vicious Maniacs, 5024 Iroquois St., College Park, MD 20740, USA.

WANTED: Demo and live tapes of such heavy goods as Venom, Hellhammer, Slayer, Voi Vod, Bulldozer, Metal Virgins, Sodom, Iron Angel, Possessed, Megadeth etc. Send lists to: Gavin, 3 Hope Terrace, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9TP, ENGLAND.

AMERICAN metallor looking to turn other metal fans out there onto a brand new excellent and superb metal band called LIEGE LORD. For more info on a demo and the band write now. Don't delay this band is great! Write to: Liege Lord C/O Patrick Prince 126 Myrtle Ave 4, Stamford, CT 06902, USA.

ANY metal maidens or dudes interested in corresponding with the biggest fuckin' IRON MAIDEN fan in the US, lets talk metal. Females especially wanted from the UK to correspond with me. Girls if you live in the US let's also talk. I'd love to correspond with you girls of 15-18. Maiden kicks! Eddie Lives! Up The Irons!! Pics traded. Write: 'Metal Teaze' Mark, 11711 Shadow Valley Road, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

I'M a 16-year-old male who is seriously into REAL metal. Anthrax, Slayer, Exodus, Megadeth, Celtic Frost, Venom, Metallica, Manowar, M.Fate, Overkill, Nasty Savage, just to name the best. I want to get feedback from people who can sell me demos, live tapes and MERCHANDISE. Write fast, bang hard! Tom 'Metal Hammer' Maier, 566 Park Way, Chula Vista, CA 92010, USA.

15-YEAR-OLD metal thrasher into all metal from Triumph to Sodom. I want to trade live tapes with people all over the world. Also I'm looking for RUSH memorabilia (T-Shirts, live tapes, promos, rarities, anything). Pref. 1975-1980 (their glory years) Metal maidens always welcome to write. Matt Lane, 840 Pamela Lane, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA. P.S. I'm also into Rhoads, Yngwie, Akira and any other guitar gods.

ENGLISH power metallor into Exodus, Celtic Frost, Slayer, Venom, Manowar, Fate, Megadeth, Raven, Sodom, Possessed, Metallica, Dark Angel, Sacred Blade, Destruction, Exciter, Voi Vod etc. Would like to trade tapes with anyone, any age from anywhere - no wimp rock, posers or false metal! Hard-core thrashers only! Write: Bill Steer, Thornwood, Tower Rd North, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside, L60 6RS, ENGLAND.

WANTED to trade live tapes & demos, Accept, Dio, Kiss, Manowar, Ozzy, Rainbow etc. Traders from all over the world welcome. Gary Bring-man, 111 McKinley Ave., Salisbury MD 21801, USA.

19-YEAR-OLD metal fetisher into Slayer, M. Fate, Metallica, Venom, Raven, Warlord, Lizzy Borden and just about everybody else, would like to hear from headbangers around their world. Also trade live and demo tapes. Randy Hopper, 14816 NE 249th St., Battleground, WA 98604, USA.

21-YEAR-OLD total metalhead wants to hear from anyone into bands like Slayer, Anthrax, Metallica, Exodus, Angelwitch, Exciter, Over-kill, Loudness, Possessed, Trouble etc. Tape traders welcome. Jeff Madeley, 1929 El Fran Dr., Sycamore, IL 60178, USA

16-YEAR-OLD thrasher into Overkill, Jag Panzer, Exodus, Possessed, Destruction, Dark Angel, Venom, Rising Force and several others. No Posers. Seeks to trade live and demo tapes, t-shirts, Sean Norton, 10132 Grailert Drive, Huntington Beach, CA. 92646, USA. P.S. If it's too loud you're too old, get the hell out cause you've been told.

DEATH from (Metallic) Assault! Canadian Metallic Fiend wants thrashers to correspond and trade demo/ live tapes with. I'm 100% into Razor, Exciter, Slayer, Megadeth, Voi Vod, Running Wild, Exodus, Overkill, Celtic Frost, Warfare and more. (All heavy and thrash-able!!!). Also starting a fanzine 'Metallic Assault' so contributors are needed. All bangers male/female are urged to write and send lists to: Metallic Assault c/o Derek Emerson, 1560 Bloor St., E 71, Mississ-auga, Ontario, CANADA. L4X 1R8

25-YEAR-OLD metallist into the likes of Virgin Steele, Savatage, Fates Warning, Omen, Gillan, Gillan w/ Sabbath etc. etc. etc. I have large list of live tapes, promo, rare and unreleased records, and much info. Would like to hear from metal men and maidens from around the world. Send lists and letters to: Bob Saulski, 6023 S. Nagle Ave., Chicago, ILL 60638, USA.

I am a 17-year-old headbanger looking for live video or just tapes of Accept, Saxon, UFO, Raven, Exciter, Anthrax, Metallica, Wastad, MSG, Lonestar and also Lonestar albums. Also demos of up-coming metal bands. All letters answered. Write to: Edward McCarthy, 26 Atlas Lane, Hicksville NY 11801 USA.

METAL thrashing man looking for real HM bands in concert on either VHS or Beta especially from bangers in the USA and Canada. I have several shows to trade, so all you metal heads pick up your pens and write to: Bill Baran, 14 Havenbrook Blvd., Willowdale, Ontario, M2J 1A4, CANADA.

I'M a metal thrashing fuckin' and perverse headbanger from Germany and into Slayer, Metallica, Exodus, Megadeth, Blessed Death, Abattoir, Carnivore, Possessed and German thrashers like Running Wild, Destruction and Iron Angel. If interested in ex-changing tapes. Write to: Marcus Koehler, Kaiserstr 20, 6907 Nussloch, WEST GERMANY.

WANTED: Live recordings/ demos by the following bands: Metallica, Anthrax, Raven, Malice, Accept, Fate, WASP, Slayer (LA), Exodus, Loudness, Rods. I'm especially interested in buying any Metallica merchandise. Please send lists and prices to: Craig Morton, 5401 Halstad Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608, USA.

CHEERY lad with over 400 demo and live tapes wishes to trade with all metalheads worldwide. Current playlist includes: The Mentors, Metal Church, Metallica, Green River, Rising Force, Sacred Blade, Exodus, Slayer and all other purveyors of metal superiority. For a speedy reply send all tape lists and sweet love poems to: Mike Barnett, 610 Hill Road, Aberdeen, WA 98520, USA.

16-YEAR-OLD male metal maniac wants to hear from anyone (male & female mainly!) that's into: Slayer, Fate, Venom, Bathory, Loudness, Voi Vod, Raven, Exciter, Warlord, WASP, Stryper etc. Anyone that's totally insane and loves to 'Thrash till Death' write to: Aaron 'Metalhead' Love, 60144, Turquoise Rd., Bend, Oregon 97702, USA. All letters answered.

24-YEAR-OLD hardcore, class metallor into: Sacred Blade, Metal Church, Picture, Loudness, Witchkiller, Sortilege, Metallica, Jag Panzer, Rising, Fates Warning, Cities, Raven etc... Wants bangers to trade live tapes, demos and obtain merchandise from all over the metallic world! (I have over 600 tapes). Especially want contacts in Japan, Sweden, France, England as well as everywhere else. Kill with class!! Send lists to: Ron 'Mind Over Metal' Singer, 9640 Ryan Crs., Richmond, B.C. CANADA. V7A 2H2.

I'M a French Death Metal Maniac into Slayer, Anthrax, Living Death, Xzowhite, Sodom.... and I would like to correspond with other metal maniacs over the world, I've got live tapes (Exciter, Anthrax,..) French band demos (Stigmata, Bloody-Witch...) and French magazines to trade, I'm looking for more information about Exodus, Slayer, Megadeth, Possessed...(Demos, articles, live tapes, buttons, pictures...) Write to: Ludovic Gluozko, 13 Rue Raoul Aubaud, 60590, Serfontaine, FRANCE.

ATTENTION all metal bands!! New Hampshire's heaviest and longest metal radio show, Flaming Metal Death, wants your demos, records and bios! The show can be heard every Saturday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm on WKNH here at Keene State College on 91.3FM. ALL MATERIAL IS GUARANTEED AIR-PLAY!!! Send any and all material to Jon Johnson/Flaming Metal Death/WKNH, 91.3 FM/Route 32, North Swanzey/Keene, NH 03431, USA. Anyone interested in hearing the show can send two C-90 cassettes and a S.A.S.E. or an international reply coupon to the same address, and I'll get them back to you as soon as possible! POSEURS WILL DIE!!!

I'M a 16-year-old thrasher into Venom, Metallica, Slayer, GBH, Motorhead, Tank, Exodus, and many others. I wanna hear from true blood-thirsty maniacs(I crucify posers!!) who want to trade demos/live/videos etc. I'm sick of maggots in their Motley Crue shirts saying "Hey dude, heavy metal is bad, dude!!" AAAAGGHH!! Death to False Metal!! Your list gets mine. Neill Barter, 26617 Grayslake Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274 USA.

BELGIAN rattlehead into Megadeth, Possessed, Dark Angel, Slayer, Exodus, and anything else that is fast and furious seeks thrashers to trade tapes. Your list gets mine. Stefaan Daamen, P.Delestrestraat 52, 1850 Grimbergen, BELGIUM.

DEATH metal merchant into total destruction. Would like to trade tapes with anyone into Sodom, Possessed, Venom, Slayer, Exodus, Destruction, Bathory, Tormentor, Mercyful Fate, Iron Angel and Celtic Frost. Looking for speed maniacs from California, Holland, W.Germany, or anywhere else. Write if you're into these bands and more death. No False Metalist's. Tom War Head, 11 Bening Lane, Holbrook, New York, 11741, USA. (Wimps must die!!!)

16-YEAR-OLD Aussie wants to trade tapes, info, etc., with headbangers all over the world. All letters answered quickly. Write to: Michele, 8 Mancina St., West Brunswick, Victoria 3055, AUSTRALIA.

DEATH METAL TAPES: Live and Demos of the most lethal, murderous, brutal thrash bands around. Sodom, Possessed, Exodus, Death, Destruction, Hellhammer, Tormentor, Death Angel etc., etc., etc. Also punk-death in the form of C.O.C., Siege, Psycho and D.R.I. Send lists to: Nik Dessle, 211 Reed Street, Mill Valley, CA, 94941, USA.

HELP! 20-year-old headthrashing Heavy Metal Maniac needs other devoted headbangers throughout the world to trade stuff, especially photos. My faves are Black Sabbath, Motorhead, Trouble, Exciter, Metallica, W.A.S.P., Ozzy, Slayer, Venom, Saxon, Anthrax, Accept, Raven. All letters answered! Please write to: Kevin 'Madman' Miller, 1929 Weathersfield Way, Schaumburg, IL 60193, USA.

FEMALE vocalist 20-years-old. Wishes to hear from wild and good looking metal merchants especially from England into Maiden, Purples, Motorhead, Priest, Fates Warning and Malice. Write to: Jennifer, 1-D Wolski Drive, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07202, USA.

HI! I'm a 19-year-old thrasher from Germany, who is into Exodus, Metallica, Slayer, Megadeth, Anthrax, Fates, Venom, Exciter, Warhead, Raven and many more. I'm looking for tape traders from all over the world. So all you live/demo tape traders send you list to: Dirk'Mechanix'Zendatzki, Postfach 103010, 465 Gelsenkirchen, WEST GERMANY.

KILL THE MOLE!! I'm still lookin' for live tapes'n' demos of brain damaging neck breaking bands like Obsession, Voi Vod, Fates Warning, Shok Paris (or any other death ragin' metal band). At the moment I'm heavily into Possessed, Slayer, Sodom, Exodus, Metal Church and Hawaii. If you're into swoppin' tapes with totally frustrated 16-year-old maniacs send your list to: Oscar Perik, Dorpsstraat 41, 7524CE Enschede, HOLLAND.

I'M a 15-year-old male into Priest, Sister, Crue, Maiden, Ozzy, Hendrix, Randy Rhoads, Metallica, W.A.S.P., Zep, Dio, D.Purple etc. I'm into guitars - playing, hearing or looking at. So if you're a true "Defender Of The Faith" write to: Greg 'Axe' Abellians, 145 Bayard St., Brooklyn, New York, 11222, USA.

DECAPITAPES: We've got live and demo tapes of: Possessed, Exodus, Destruction, Hellhammer, Megadeth, Slayer, Death Angel and endless more!! Also hardcore thrash such as C.O.C., Siege and D.R.I. Send list to: Dan Noble, 310 Cape Court, Mill Valley, CA 94941, USA.

MALE 22, seeks to correspond with Metal Queens, Princesses, Goddesses, Priestesses etc., metal thrashing madly into: Armored Saint, Queensryche, Metallica, Accept, Sacred Blade, Lizzy Borden, Medieval, The Beast, Blacklace, Anthrax, Steeler(GER), Mama(s) Boys, Xzowhite, Most European metal. Don't Hesitate, Send photo if poss. To: Samme Bequy, Box 717, Sanostee, New Mexico, 87461, USA. The Louder, The Prouder.

WRATHCHILD freak also into Motley Crue, Twisted Sister, Hanoi Rocks, Ratt, Rox, W.A.S.P. and other glam rock n' Heavy Metal. Would like to trade and buy live and demo tapes especially Wrathchild stuff. Write to Jo Pecorelli, Thorn Hill, Stockton Ave., Fleet, Hants., ENGLAND

WANT to correspond. I'm into Rush, Yes, Magnum, Kansas, Journey, Styx, Saga, Marillion, Asia, Pallas etc.. want to buy demos of these bands, and I buy for a good price T-shirts and I want to trade information. Write to: Didier Van De Rostyne, No 29, Rue Jacob Smit, 1800 Vilvorde, BELGIUM.

HM Fan wishes to buy video tapes (Betamax), (live tapes also welcome) from anyone in the UK interested in all metal groups especially Sabbath, Maiden, Van Halen, Metallica, Kiss, Crue, Saxon and Scorpions. Send your lists to: Marc Read, 10 Beechwood Crescent, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4EL ENGLAND.

13-YEAR-OLD raging metal monster possessed by speed metal such as Metallica, Exciter, Slayer, Hawaii. I'm interested in trading live concert photos of Metallica, Exciter, Anthrax, Venom and others for live tapes of above or different pictures or pins or just write for the fuck of it! 'Phantom Lord' POBox 8024, Santa Fe NM 87501, USA.

MALE German metal fan looks for female/male penpals anywhere (UK, Canada, USA in particular). I'm into: Queensryche, Dio, Raven, Ozzy, Priest, Rods, T.Sister, Tygers, Metallica, Exciter, Maiden etc. Besides I'm interested in swoping live tapes - got a respectable number inc 20 Queensryche tapes. Write to: Horst Borgardts, Am Donherrnwald 14, 6238 Hofheim 6, WEST GERMANY.

FEMALE metal maniac and bassist, 23-years-old, wishes to hear from handsome metallic men: true metallists only, from around the world, especially England & Washington State. Into: Maiden, Queensryche, Fates Warning, MSG, Steeler, Tokyo Blade, Accept, Saxon, olde Scorpions, and others. I know you're out there! Please write: Donna, 140 Clipper Avenue, Edison, New Jersey, 08817, USA - Cheers You Lot!

I would like to hear from other headbangers to trade live tapes and demos. I'm into Maiden, Purple, Anvil, Metallica, Anthrax, Motorhead, UFO and many others. Send your list, get mine. Write to: Frank Lavigne, C.P. 361, Rouyn, P.Que, J9X 5C4, CANADA.

I'M a 20-year-old-male who loves Heavy Metal. I'm into Dokken, Grim Reaper, Queensryche, Talas, Dio and Icon, just to name a few. I'd like to hear from some female headbangers who are into all the bands I have listed. Write to: Gary Erickson, Box 232, Wittenberg, Wisconsin, 54499, USA.

FEMALE guitar player into European metal, guitar wizards and headbangers would like worldwide correspondence especially in Europe. I trade demos, live tapes, and concert photos. I'm into Mercyful Fate, Accept, Randy Rhoads, Hellhammer, Venom, Warlock, Celtic Frost, Slayer, Pretty Maids, Rising Force and others. I plan to visit Europe soon. Write to: Karen, P.O.Box 7697, Torrance, CA 90504, USA.

METAL UP YOUR ASS! I would like to correspond with heavy metal maniacs worldwide. I am also interested in trading, selling or buying live tapes, demos, shirts, photos etc. My fav bands are - Slayer, Razor, Venom, Exciter, Anthrax, Fate, Anvil, Metallica, 'Old' Twisted Sister, Raven, Bathory, Voi Vod, etc., etc.. Write to: "Acid Queen", 75 Thorncliffe Pk Dr. 1701, Toronto, Ontario, M4H 1L4, CANADA.

I'M a 19-year-old metal maniac from Holland. I've got about 200 live/demo recordings and would like to trade them with everyone! My faves are: Overkill, Exodus, Leatherwolf etc. Your list gets mine! Turn It Fuckin' Up! Marco Grippeling, Bartokstraat 8, 1901 KH Castricum, HOLLAND.

TWO metal hungry female rivetheads wish to answer the call of fellow metal heads from around the world! We're into Slayer, Armored Saint, Accept, Lizzy, W.A.S.P., Maiden, Ozzy, Dio.. and much more! So get up off your asses! and answer our call! (Send photos if possible in first letter). Natasha and Maureen, 3170 Kirwin Ave., 307 Mississauga, Ontario, L5A 3R1, CANADA.

CRAZED, black metal thrasher into Destruction, Bathory, Sodom, Megadeth, Iron Angel, Slayer, Exodus, Warfare, Voi Vod, Possessed, Venom and Mercyful Fate. Wishes to trade live and demo tapes with evil motherfuckers around the world. Also interested in trading underground posters, flyers and T. Shirts. Kill Posers!! Write to: Jeff Kent, 6050 SW Cross Creek Dr., Beaverton, Oregon, 97007, USA.

I am looking for demos, live and rare recording, photos, posters, etc. of the following bands: Metallica, Fate, Slayer(LA), Motorhead, Exodus (with and without Kirk Hammett), Trauma (with and without Cliff Burton), Xzowhite, Lizzy Borden, Raven, Anthrax, W.A.S.P. and Stryper. Send lists to: Craig Morton, 5401 Halsted Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608, USA.

DEATH to POSERS!!!!!! A hellthrasher into Death, Destruction, Exodus, Slayer, Possessed, Iron Angel, Sodom, Bathory, Tormentor and others wants to trade tapes and/or correspond with all speed death ultra-hardcore bangers everywhere. Fuckin' Death Metal rules!!! Write to: Borivoj Krgin, 13-24 123rd Street., New York NY 11356 USA. Tel: 1(718)445-7765. Please send along your lists if you're into trading tapes.

METALLIC GREETINGS! Female maniac, 18, into: Fates Warning, Exciter, Running Wild, Abattoir, Rychy, Motorhead, Maiden, Tokyo Blade, Armored Saint, etc. Looking for handsome male rockers and English metal men to write to. Would also like the megasweet maniac we pulled up front at the Rychy/Maiden show at Radio City (1/19) to write. Sorry the guard kicked ya out mate! Dawn, 140 Clipper Avenue, Edison, New Jersey, 08817, USA. Keep Kickin' Axe!

METAL maniac from Sweden looking for serious tape traders worldwide, to trade demos, info, fanzines. I have over 400 demos/live tapes. Many unknown HM bands. I am into: Insane, Destruction, Torch, Bathory, Slayer, Malice, Evil, Tormentor, M. Fate, TNT, Accept, 220 Volt and many others. Your list gets mine. Metal Viking: Roger Grandin, Ostra Langgatan 131, 450 81 Grebestad, SWEDEN.

TOTAL metal thrasher into all deadly speed attack metal esp. Slayer, Exodus, Megadeth, Sodom, Possessed, Destruction, Iron Angel and anything else that destroys posers, wimps, and faggots!!! I would live to trade any demos and live tapes that are hardcore and deadly!! Send letters and lists to: Total Metal, 8711 49th Avenue, College Park, MD 20740, USA.

I'M a 14-year-old French HM maniac into Exciter, Venom, Living Death. I'm looking for live tapes of Exciter, Venom and speed metal bands. I've got French concerts of band such as Priest, Maiden... and also Vulcain, H-Bomb... and French demos. Write in French or English to: Bensemoun Jacques, 9 rue rabutin chantal, BT4 13009, Marseilles, FRANCE.

DEATH thrasher looking to trade live and demo tapes. Favourite bands are: Celtic Frost, Destruction, Possessed, Death, Sodom, Iron Angel, Voi Vod etc. Also publishing Fanzine Raging Death. Issue number one will feature Possessed, Destruction, Voi Vod, Semen of Satan, Tormentor and Celtic Frost. Would like to hear from bands interested in appearing in the mag, also send lists and letters to: Raging Death c/o Mike Davidson, 100 Richard St., Parsippany, NJ 07054, USA.

BELGIAN long-haired metal-head (19) into Exodus, Megadeth, Cyclone, Dark Angel, Sacred Blade, Overkill, Slayer, NWOBHM and many, many more. Seeks penpals M/F all over the world (esp. USA) to exchange correspondence/newsletters, mags, etc. Go and fetch your pen! Yves, 65 Avenue De Dloreal, B-1180, Bruxelles, BELGIUM.

WE are Australian Metal-heads that hat faggot bands like Priest, Dio, Leppard, Q.Riot, Bon Jovi and Van Halen. We are into Motorhead, Venom, Slayer, Shit Death, Possessed, Helstar, Metallica, Exciter, WASP, Maiden. We are possessed by black metal and kill all straight mother fuckers who don't like metal. We want to hear from head-bangers around the world. (Write in English or you'll receive a bomb in your mail as a reply to your letter!) Write to: Ant'ny The Imperial Slayer, 194 Greenwood Drive, Bundoora 3083, Melbourne, Vic, AUSTRALIA or Alg The Apocalyptic Attack, 203 Greenwood Drive, Bundoora, 3083, Melbourne, Vic., AUSTRALIA.

24-YEAR-OLD Die hard metal-head. Wanting fans of Rik Fox-Sin/Angel/Kiss/WASP to exchange photos, tapes and rarities. P.S. Rik keep on kicking ass and taking names. Brian Rademacher, 87 Park Ave., Iselin, NJ 08830, USA.

I'M a 17-year-old guitarist into WASP, Metallica, Exciter, M.Fate etc. I would like to trade demos, photos, records, shirts etc. Write to: R. Perl, 72 Cherrystone Drive, Willowdale, Ontario, CANADA M2H-1S1.

LOOKING for ass kicking demo tapes and live tapes like Venom, M. Fate, Celtic Frost, Slayer. Write to: Kevin (Blood Lust) Skelton, 206 Blue PT Road, Holtville, NY 11742, USA.

WITCHFYNDE Competition

30 ALBUMS TO BE WON

In this issue, we begin what we hope will be a regular METAL FORCES competition, giving you a chance to get even more out of the UK's No. 1 Heavy Metal magazine. To kick off the feature we have a competition which is sure to sort out the genuine Satanic Metallists amongst you from the non-believers, with 30 albums up for grabs kindly donated by Mausoleum Records as well as a special WITCHFYNDE prize to the outright winner.

To win all you have to do is to translate into English, the Demonic scribe on the back sleeve of the latest WITCHFYNDE album "Lords Of Sin".

First person out of the hat will win 10 albums of their choice on the Mausoleum label - see adverts and reviews in METAL FORCES for selection - as well as that special WITCHFYNDE prize. The two runners-up will each receive 10 Mausoleum albums of their choice.

Send your entries to: "WITCHFYNDE" METAL FORCES Competition No. 1, Mausoleum Records, 11 Sandygate Crescent, Wath Upon Dearne, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S63 7JP, ENGLAND. All entries must be received no later than 5th July, 1985. Results will be printed in MF13.



CROSSFIRE

SECOND ATTACK

Produced by Jos KLOEK



Hazard

HAZZARD

Mixed by Michael WAGENER



WARHEAD

SPEEDWAY

Produced by Jos KLOEK

IF IT AIN'T HEAVY
IT AIN'T ON

MAUSOLEUM

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I dunno how many of you out there remember a band called SILVERWING. Well I certainly do I saw them about fourteen times! They were a breath of fresh air at the time, the first Glam-Metal band at a time, when everyone else was trying to see who could play the fastest riffs. Unfortunately, the band received an overlarge feature in Sounds, which really harmed their career by the sheer fact, that the feature was done too early on. The feature was done by Geoff Barton who raved on too much about the bands stage effects and antics and there was hardly any mention of the music. After all the big press phased out, SILVERWING began a slow ride downhill.

Now PET HATE bare absolutely no resemblance to SILVERWING whatsoever - musically and image wise; even though PET HATE contains three ex-SILVERWING members: Alistar Terry (guitar/vocals), Dave Roberts (bass) and Steve Roberts (drums) are the famous three. They've been joined by guitarists James Page and Jim Beason who now complete the line-up. After two LP's "The Bride Wore Red" and the ANGEL influenced "Bad Publicity", it looks as if things are starting to happen for the boys. They recently turned in a highly successful Radio One session for Tommy Vance's Rock Show. Tracks featured were "Cry Of The Wild", "Girls Grow Up" and "Wreck The Radio" culled from the "Bad Publicity" LP. The fourth track was "Love Me Madly" which is a number from HATES debut LP. Gig wise the band haven't done that much as far as headlining goes. Supporting HANOI ROCKS on their last British tour was a real plus point for the band and they were received very well by the crowd on all of the dates.

I recently met up with bass player Dave Roberts in Shades and discussed firstly



PET HATE

the significance of the name change from SILVERWING to PET HATE. "SILVERWING as a band was becoming stagnant, you know the spandex, the glitter, the flashbombs and the silly song titles, we were just coming to a point where we could go no further. We needed to progress, but we knew all these things were SILVERWING trademarks, so instead of carrying on we changed our name". Don't you think you had made a name as SILVERWING and changing your name was just like starting out all over again? "True, we had many dedicated followers stretching from Liverpool to London. But then you take into consideration the number of people who didn't like SILVERWING and may take PET HATE in a different light, thinking it was a totally new band. PET HATE though is such an improvement on the original WING idea." I couldn't agree more, Alistair Terry could be Kendall's answer to Bryan Adams, his song-writing ability and vocals have improved so much since the days of LEGS DIAMOND cover versions. Speaking of LEGS DIAMOND, what made you go out and grab LEGS

DIAMOND/ANGEL producer Eddie Leonnett for your last LP? "Well I just loved two of the LP's he worked on: LEGS DIAMOND's "A Diamond Is A Hard Rock" and ANGEL's "Sinful" LP. We figured that the sound he achieved on these two LP's were incredible. So we brought Eddie out of retirement and he worked on the LP and as you can hear he made an excellent job out of it."

So finally I asked Dave what happens next for PET HATE? "Well a major US label is interested at the moment and I have a feeling that if all goes well for us with this deal then this could be the real biggy for us. We'd love to get out to play the US. I'm sure there would be a market for us in LA. Apart from that there's the new single which should be out anyway now, hopefully it will pick up some airplay on the radio stations." At that point I left Dave and went home and played the "Bad Publicity" LP. As far as I'm concerned it's hot and there is no doubt that PET HATE will make it to the top, they just have to be patient that's all.

KELV HELLRAZER

PRETTY MAIDS

RED HOT ROCKERS

BERNARD DOE Talks to KEN HAMMER

It's been nearly eighteen months since we last featured PRETTY MAIDS in METAL FORCES. Since then the young Danish band have had two or three line-up changes, the release of a new album, a change of image, a new management deal and also experienced the frustrations of many a young band, who are tempted by the high expectations of the first chance of a major record deal that comes their way.

I recently spoke to guitarist, and founding member, Ken Hammer about recent events and began by asking about those line-up changes.

"Our other guitarist Pete Collins was the first to leave. We asked him to go because at the time he had a personal problem although of course he's now back in the band. Shortly afterwards we asked our bass player, John Darrow, to leave as well. The problem with John was he began thinking he was already a star. Signing to CBS and playing with major bands like BLACK SABBATH all went to John's head, so we decided it would be better for him to leave.

"We replaced Pete and John with guitarist Rick Hansen and bass player Alan Delong from another Danish band, SHYLOCK and at first everything worked out well. (This was the line-up that recorded the "Red, Hot And Heavy" album). But Rick was more into melodic/pop metal, which was not good for the band, as we didn't want to go that commercial, so Rick was asked to leave after we recorded the album.

"Then we looked for another guitarist, but couldn't find



KEN HAMMER

Pic Hucky Heppke

one that suited our style so eventually we got Pete back who by this time had sorted out his problems. Also he knew all the songs."

PRETTY MAIDS first vinyl release was of course the "Pretty Maids" mini-album the band recorded for England's Bullet Records which was also released in the US on PAR Records. However the mini-album had only been in the shops some six weeks or so before one of the big guns, CBS Records, were on the phone eager for the signature of one of Europe's most promising young talents.

The bands first release on CBS was a re-mixed version of the "Pretty Maids" mini-album from which successful sales warranted the release of their debut, full-length album and the signature of their three year contract with the label.

There's no doubt in my mind that "Red, Hot And Heavy" is one of the most powerful, classiest European metal albums that's ever been released. Views that have been enhanced with rave reviews throughout the World. But although the album is domestically available in most corners of the HM globe it has not been issued in either the UK or, most importantly, the USA which makes up around 80% of the market sales, a situation that has obviously upset Ken Hammer. "When we first signed to CBS, they promised us that our album would definately be released in the UK and America. In fact it was one of the reasons that persuaded us to sign to them.

Ken was also unhappy with CBS Denmark by events surrounding the recording of th-



PETE COLLINS and ALAN DELONG

eir album. "Well, before we recorded the album we suggested to CBS that we would really like to get a good producer in. CBS agreed and asked us who we wanted. So we suggested Max Norman or Chris Tsangarides but apparently they were not available. So we said, how about Phil Lynott? Again this fell through.

"By now we were running out of time as the studio had already been booked. So we said OK just get an American or English producer so we can get the sound we want.

"I don't think CBS really tried hard enough to get hold of any of these people because when it came down to it they were just not prepared to pay the money for them. Anyway they eventually came up with this American guy called Billy Cross who was a guitarist living in Copenhagen.

"But once we were in the studio Cross didn't really seem at all interested. In my opinion he just wanted to finish the job as quickly as possible, collect his money and get back home to his wife. We were just lucky we had Tommy Hansen who was the one who really produced the album. He's been into the band for a long time and was much more involved than Billy Cross."

Personally, I think the production of the album is near faultless and it's very dubious if either Norman or Tsangarides could have done better despite their highly respected reputation. So full marks to Tommy Hansen.

On the live gig front PRETTY MAIDS have been very active having recently played three HM festivals in Holland,

Pic Hucky Heppke

Belgium and Poland. Unfortunately the first of these shows - the Earthquake festival in Holland - was a performance the band would want to forget. "That festival was the biggest disappointment of our career so far, because we really played bad. The whole thing though was so badly arranged. The monitor guy we had was really screwed and he couldn't even understand English".

So will the band ever play at the Earthquake festival again? "No, I don't think so, although we definately want to play in Holland again because I think we owe the people something down there."

Just prior to the Earthquake festival I saw PRETTY MAIDS myself perform a showcase gig at The Saga in Copenhagen where although the performance was excellent the sound for much of the time was rather embarrassing - unheard guitar solo's etc... If any band can hope to make any impact as a serious live act, which is important for any up-and-coming band, then they must get the sound right on the night, otherwise they're fighting a losing battle from the start.

Thankfully PRETTY MAIDS have now got their own sound man and performances at the Heavy Sound festival in Belgium and the Polish festival they played with HANOI ROCKS have been described as faultless and very professional. "Those two festivals were really great, especially in Poland which saw our best audience reaction ever. There were over 6,000 people there who knew all our songs and were singing along with the lyrics. It was incredible!"



Pic Henrik Ardebrant

PHIL MOORHEAD

Visually the band have changed quite a lot from the early days, from a predominately leather and studs image to a more kind of LA look?

"Yeah, but we're not from LA we're from bloody Denmark! - Seriously though, I think image is really important. Look at all the top bands like RATT, MOTLEY CRUE and W.A.S.P. they all have a strong image.

"At the moment I don't think we have any image at all. But we are hoping that we can find someone before the next album who can give us an original image. At the moment there are too many bands all looking the same."

On the subject of the next album, I noticed that the two new numbers the band have been playing live - "Rodeo" and "Love Games" - which although still classy are more commercial than past material. Is this an indication of the direction the band will be taking with the new album?

"No, definitely not. We've always liked to play two kinds of styles. One which I call the English/European sound - really heavy, fast songs like "Back To Back" and "Battle Of Pride". And the American sound - more melodic and if you like, slightly commercial songs like "Waitin' For The



RONNIE ATKINS

Time" and "A Place In The Night".

"I think these contrasts will be the same again on the next album. We have a new song called "We Came To Rock" which is really heavy and we may use this for the title of the new album."

The band are hoping to start recording the new album in September or October but those plans could be affected by touring commitments.

In Europe PRETTY MAIDS have been offered the support for

OZZY OSBOURNE's forthcoming tour, but whether they accept it or not depends on CBS being prepared to put up the bands expenses. (They refused to do so for the ill-fated MADAME X European tour - for which MAIDS were offered the support). They are also due to return to Poland to headline a HM festival.

There's also a possibility that they will be touring Japan and Canada soon, where the album has really taken off. In Canada the band have just released an extended version of "Red, Hot And Heavy" as a 12" single.

But whatever happens to PRETTY MAIDS in the next six months or so, there's no doubt that if they are going to become a major force in the world of heavy metal then they must get their product released in the UK and the US. So come on CBS England and CBS America stop depriving your countries HM fans from one of the most promising young talents in years. Biased views of course, but there again what band has never had a little help from their friends?

For more info send an SAE/IRC to:- PRETTY MAIDS International Fan Club, 17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts., SG2 OEP, ENGLAND.

FANZINE CORNER

NORTHERN METAL - Canada's first heavy metal fanzine. Published by the Canadian Heavy Metal Association. Issue No. 10 will be released on April 30th 1985. Features part two of an interview with Blackie Lawless of W.A.S.P., interviews with Lars Ulrich of Metallica and Battleaxe. Articles on Omen, Fates Warning, Briar, Crisis, Brat and Spider. Cost per issue is \$1.50, please send money orders only, payable to the Canadian Heavy Metal Association. Send to: CHMA/NORTHERN METAL, 94-21, 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5J 3S2.

BLACKOUT No. 2 features Accept, Exciter, Fates Warning, Bloody Six, demos, bootlegs and LP reviews plus lots more. Send 3DM to BLACKOUT, Georg Logler, Zaslusstr. 120, 7800 Freiburg, WEST GERMANY.

HARDCORE No. 2 now out featuring interviews with Anthrax, Neil Turbin, Overkill, Dark Angel, Hallows Eve, Voi Vod, Metal Church, Savatage and much more. **HARDCORE** No. 1 is still available. Interviews with Nasty Savage, Hellhammer, Laaz Rockit etc. Cost \$2.75(US)\$4.00(Overseas) or both issues for \$5.00(US), \$7.00(Overseas). **HARDCORE** T-Shirts \$10(US)\$13.00(Overseas). Make money orders/checks payable to Darryl Amaki. **HARDCORE**, 769 Hoomalinali St., Pearl City, HI 96782. USA.

MARSHALL STACK is the world's only Total Metal Magazine. Issue No. 1 has just been unleashed, featuring exclusive interviews with: Grim Reaper, Whiplash, Elixir, Atomkraft, Impaler, Liege Lord and Battleaxe plus a free badge! Send £1/\$2 cash or cheque (wa pay the postage!) to: Joel Griggs, 52 The Charter Road, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9RD, ENGLAND.

THRASH - Canadian Underground Metal Magazine - Issue No. 1 features Slayer, Razor, Anthrax, Venom, Anvil, Raven plus a lot more. Send \$2.50 Canadian to: THRASH, c/o Adam Carlo, 40 Strathmere Place, Guelph, Ontario, CANADA N1H 5 L8.

WAGE OF MAYHEM! The NASTY SAVAGE fanzine features news, interviews, and pics of Florida's wildest metal band. Write to: NASTY SAVAGE - WAGE OF MAYHEM! P.O.Box 2012, Brandon, FL 33511, USA.

METALLO, the first number of the Italian metal magazine is finally out. It has a circulation of 3,000 copies and features Wrathchild, Avenger, Laaz Rockit, Savage Grace, Tokyo Blade, LA Metal, NY Metal, Halloween (the Italian band) record reviews and many more. Send \$2.00 or £2.00 to Alessandro, Massara, Via Monte di Dio 9, 80132, Napoli, ITALY. Also wanted demos, infos, records, photos by new bands. We need adverts for our second number.

THE SUBWAY No. 5 out now. Underground metal at its best. Metal Church, Axe Victims, Pantera, Liege Lord, Damien Thorne, Hellrazer, TKO, Mesomorph, Tankard, Knightmare II, Siren, Prophet and lots more. 24 pages. \$2 US., \$2.50 outside of US. Subway Productions, 2006 35th Ave. W., Seattle, WA, 98199, USA.

The beginning of the end has arrived!! Issue No. 1 of **METAL SLAUGHTER** is out now featuring interviews with BATHORY, POSSESSED, OVERKILL, WHIPLASH plus Destruction, Intense Mutilation and lots more!! For your copy send \$1.75 US or \$2.50 foreign in cash/m.o. to: **METAL SLAUGHTER**, 4 Alma Avenue, Buffalo, New York, 14215 USA. Also available back issues of **THE METAL COMMANDMENTS** Issue No. 1 w/ Merciful Fate, Celtic Frost, Nasty Savage & more! Send \$1.50 US or \$2.25 foreign for your copy to **METAL SLAUGHTER** address above!

SLAYER, a new Norwegian metal fanzine is out now. No. 1 includes Warlock, Gravedigger, Hallows Eve, Slayer, Celtic Frost, Running Wild, Merciful Fate and much more. No. 2 features Voi Vod, Nasty Savage, Bathory, Exodus, Laaz Rockit, Destruction, Omen, Savatage, Exciter and much much more. Each copy costs \$2.00. Send to: **SLAYER**, c/o Jon Kristiansen, Stm. Kolstadsvei 29, 1700 Sarpsborg, NORWAY.

UNDERGROUND POWER No. 1 featuring Overkill, Hixx, Trouble etc is now available by sending \$2.25 in the US and \$4.00 foreign in cash/money order (made payable to Irene Kuzel) to: **Underground Power** c/o Irene Kuzel, P.O.Box 17557 Rochester, NY 14621, USA.

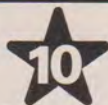
SUCK CITY, America's most Abominogacious 8c Metal zine is proud to present Issue No. 6 featuring an interview with Robert Garvin of Cirith Ungol, Fates Warning, Flight Of The Fuckin' Griffin, Loudnips and more. **SUCK CITY** is looking for fellow moss-faced Metal freaks to contribute, conspire and eat lunch with. Write: **SUCK CITY** PO Box 441183 Indianapolis IN 46204. Issues 1-5 are available along with our new issue for purveyors of 8c Metal indigestion.

FIREBALL, Italy's best and heaviest magazine is still looking for new bands, releases from all over the world. Send info, b/w photos and tape/records to: **FIREBALL** c/o Ferro Antonio via Mino Da Fiesole, 5 - 35100 Padova, ITALY. Latest issue out now and features: Powergame, Severance, Dark Lord, Shyver, Abattoir, Exodus, Vanadium, Metallo compilation, Accept, Skull, Tyrant Town, King Cobra, Crowley, Laaz Rockit, Vyper, Metal Church and more. Prices are 2 dollars or £1.50 each copy.

METAL ON VINYL

ONSLAUGHT

Power From Hell
(C.O.R. Records)



I must admit that I've never heard of ONSLAUGHT before, but this 4-piece from Bristol, England, have certainly come up with one of the best Black/Death metal albums of the year so far.

True, the band are not treading any new ground - it's all been done before - but they execute it so much better than most and possess all the qualities of SLAYER, VENOM, EXODUS and DESTRUCTION and can't fail to impress thrashers in all corners of the globe.

The album is packed full of intense thrashers of the highest order guaranteed to send every true metal fan into a crazed frenzy.

My particular faves are the EXODUS inspired "Death Metal" and "Witch Hunt", the two-part instrumental "Skullcrusher" and the ultra-speed metallized "Steel Meets Steel" and "The Devils Legion" with some amazing lead work from guitarist Steve Grice who puts in a death defying display throughout.

Already ONSLAUGHT have surpassed anything that the likes of VENOM have put on vinyl and without a doubt the band will become hugely popular with hardcore metal circles. "Power From Hell", is an absolutely essential purchase.

BERNARD DOE

ZOETROPE

Break Your Back
(Combat Records)



Let me say first off, that I have a great amount of respect for bands whose drummers also handle lead vocals. Especially the faster bands like EXCITER and ZOETROPE.

ZOETROPE, pronounced ETROP, are a 4-piece band out of Chicago and "Break Your Back" is their debut LP. And an impressive and polished debut LP it is, too. ZOETROPE is Kevin Michael and Ken Black on twin lead guitars, Calvin Humphrey on bass, and Barry Stern on drums and lead vocals.

ZOETROPE has always come

across as a fighting, street smart, inner-city band. That image and sound comes across again on "Break Your Back". As was the case on their 1983 demo, ZOETROPE shows a wide songwriting range on their debut LP. From the hardcore-thrash sound of "Amnesty" to the almost commercially accessible "Mercenary".

Maybe commercially accessible is the wrong phrase to use. It's probably scared off a few of you already! Legitimate metal with a melody would probably be a better description. Those of you who remember their demo will remember a cut called "Company Man" that is much in the same vein. In fact, "Kill The Enemy" from the demo also appears on the LP.

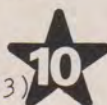
"Break Your Back" shows ZOETROPE with a very professional sound. In fact, on first listen, METALLICA's "Ride The Lightning" popped into my mind more than once.

I can only see success for ZOETROPE and Combat Records with this offering. We may not be talking "METALLICA sized" success, but we are talking a good start to it!

MIKE VERGANE

McCOY

Think Hard
(Mausoleum - Skull 8373)



Well I've thought long and hard about what to say about this record. All I can say is, is, shit, I love it! This is an album to suit all metal tastes. You've got the ultra heavy "Hell To Play" which warns against the perils of cosmetic surgery; the slightly blues tinged sadness of "Loving Lies", a semi-ballad delivered so expertly; the almost Michael Bolton sounding "Demon Rose" where T-Bone confirms McCoy's statements that he is indeed a great singer. There's the slightly off-the-wall "Heads Will Roll" etc etc etc.

Paul Samson plays with considerable dexterity and emotion (particularly on "Demon Rose") whilst John McCoy can be heard throughout the album quite clearly. Whether this is because he produced

it is hard to say but it is nice to hear every instrument properly. In fact I find the album on a whole has a very live feel about it. Something I like a great deal.

I feel the best two cuts are left to last. The exceptional "Fear Of The Morning" where T-Bone had me looking for comparisons. All I could come up with was an amalgam of Michael Bolton (the NEAREST comparison), Billy Thorpe and Phil Mogg; and the stunning "Jerusalem" which as an album track by anybody mega would be beyond description, but it's a McCoy song. So? it's still way beyond description!

I feel it a shame that T-Bone couldn't cut it live with McCOY. He has awesome talent. I hope he does something solo wise because it would be such a waste of talent if he just goes back to singing commercials again, right?

All I can say to sum up is Nikki Brooks must be a superb singer to have to handle any of these songs better than T-Bone. I can't wait to find out if she can. This LP, as they say, is the real McCoy.

DAVE REYNOLDS

HELLOWEEN

Helloween
(Noise Mini-LP)



HELLOWEEN were the pick of the bands that appeared on last year's "Death Metal" compilation, and have certainly come up with the goods on their debut mini-LP.

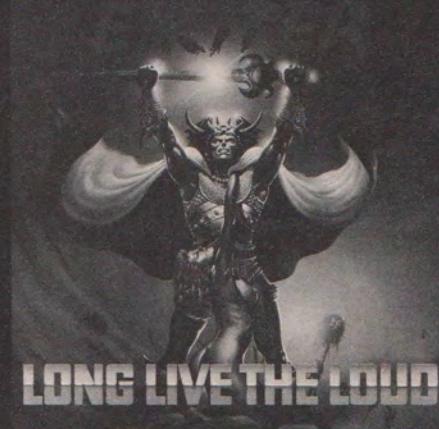
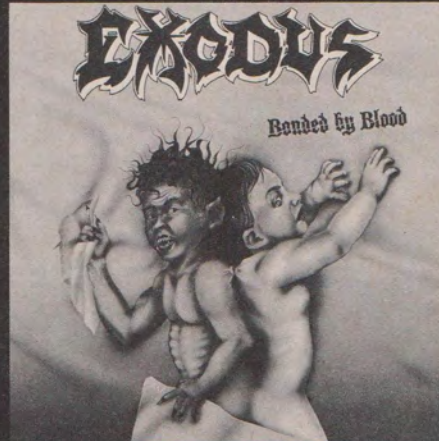
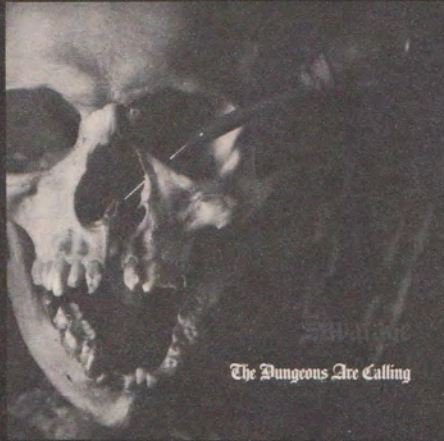
The twin lead guitar attack of Kai Hansen and Michael Weikath gives the band a slight MAIDENish feel, especially on "Starlight" and "Murderer" but the bands overall intense frenzied approach, results in HELLOWEEN being one of Germany's most exciting new bands.

"Warrior" is power metal at its best while the slow intro to "Cry For Freedom" soon makes way for an orgy of superb thrash. However the best track has to be the totally brilliant "Victim Of Fate" where the instrumentation is faultless.

So an excellent debut and all we want now is the full length album. Over to you Karl.

BERNARD DOE

TOTAL DEATH FROM MUSIC FOR NATIONS



ALBUMS

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12" WASP — "ANIMAL (F**K LIKE A BEAST)" PIG 109

OUT NOW ON MFN

PROPHET

Prophet
(Total Experience)



This is unbelievable! A classic pomp LP if ever there was one. Beyond SUGARCREEK? Well, I'll leave that up to you. How disco label Total Experience ever picked up on PROPHET must be quite some story, but let's just be thankful that they did.

What we have here is pomp-rock of the highest degree; tight vocal harmonies coupled with excellent songs and musicianship that ranks amongst the best. "Steel Secrets" sees Joe Zujkowski letting loose on his keyboards at the intro, as the number fires off into a mid tempo rocker, with the kind of hookline that imprints itself on your memory. "Heart Of The Night" sounds a lot like BOSTON but is filled full of keyboard frills leaving you doing overtime trying to keep up with it. "Slowdown" is a KANSAS type ballad which closes side one in the finest way possible.

Side two opener "Powerplay" sees vocalist Dean Fasano sounding like a younger version of Steve Walsh, whilst Joe Zujkowski does his best to challenge Greg Giuffria for the king of the ivories award. "Sail Away" is the LP's real rocker, watch your VU meters serge into the red zones as this number races along. "Listen To Ya" is pomp at its best, bouncing bass lines and swirling synths all over the place. Believe me this LP is incredible and it's really hard to put the LP into words. My best advice is to just buy it and believe in PROPHET.

KELV HELLRAZER

ABATTOIR

Vicious Attack
(Combat)



Out of all the death metal releases of late ABATTOIR's was the one I most looked forward to hearing. Indeed I bought it in a North Miami record store with absolutely no hesitation whatsoever, even about its high price! I also bought the EXODUS and ZNOWHITE albums at the same time. What each band does is give their fans what they want. No Bullshit!

Being perfectly realistic, like all trends the current standing of Death Metal as Numero uno metal attraction fan wise is bound to blow out soon. There will be a couple of bands following in METALLICA's footsteps into

the arms of dollar plagued majors and there will be some who deserve to do so but don't and just get accused of being a clone along with the legitimate clone bands.

What chance do EXODUS and ABATTOIR have of striking big? At this stage SLAYER are the only ones likely to sign with a major. ABATTOIR have as good a chance as any if this debut album is anything to judge them by. They offer the usual fodder of violence with force with the added bonus of a rippin' cover of MOTORHEAD's "Ace Of Spades" (probably the track that started it all State-side D.M. wise). ABATTOIR's original material thrashes and slices, especially the 'classic' number "Screams From The Grave" but I must admit I prefer former vocalist John Cyriss singing it rather than Steve Gaines.

Other tracks that have me up'n'bangin' include the rippin' "The Living And The Dead" powered by nifty riffing from Mark Caro and Danny Olivero; the real snotty headbanger "Don't Walk Alone" and the AVENGER sounding "The Enemy".

"Vicious Attack" is testimony to a talented (how often do we see that word in a 'Thrash' review?) young band who are one of those acts who deserve that elusive major treatment. Whether they get it is another matter but I like 'em better than EXODUS.

DAVE REYNOLDS

DARK ANGEL

We Have Arrived
(Axe Killer 7006)



At last, a real killer available in Europe. This was one of the best death metal albums to come out of the States last year. "We Have Arrived" is a truly classic doom album. Right from the opening title cut, with Don Doty's marvellous screaming vocals this record has you in its grip. The next track - "Merciless Death" has a melodic(?) bass intro leading into one of the best tracks on the LP. Yet again, those great vocals, coupled with the pounding rhythm and tight twin guitars for a couple of searing leads - brilliant.....

Then "Welcome To The Slaughter House", which I reckon is one of the weaker tracks, but that's OK, 'cause it really picks up for side two.

"No Tomorrow" is a great death riff, and then drummer Jack Schwartz (unfortunately no longer in the band) shows that some metal drummers can actually play, followed by one of the best guitar solos on the album.

"Hell On It's Knees" has our acoustic intro. You know, the sort of thing your Granny smiles at before her brains get splattered over the wall (honest... try it and see). Make sure you crank this one up real loud. And into the last cut on the LP - "Vendetta". A real monster tearer which leaves you screaming for more and more.

DARK ANGEL have arrived... with a vengeance.

PHIL MACSPORRAN

HAWAII

The Natives Are Restless
(Volcanic Records)



The HAWAII of today bares hardly any comparisons in musical style to the frantic power attack of their first album, "One Nation Underground".

"The Natives Are Restless" see's the band adopting a far more commercial metal approach that's very much in the MAIDEN/PRIEST mould. But while the initial reaction may be of disgust as another band wimp out, it must be said that "TNAR" contains some strong material, albeit unoriginal.

"Unfinished Business", "Dynamite" and "Proud To Be Loud" hints at touches of QUIET RIOT especially in the catchy chorus chant of the latter. But it's those JUDAS PRIEST influences that stand up above all else. Tracks like "Beg For Mercy", "Vicious Power Hungry Bitch" and "Call Of The Wild" make the band sound even more PRIEST sounding than MALICE do, particularly the latter which is almost a dedringer for "Freewheel Burnin'", even down to the Halford like vocals of Eddie Day.

Whilst the musicianship is generally fluent throughout, I found the drumming of Jeff Graves often unimaginative, like on "Turn It Up Louder" and the DOKKENish "Lies". A tightening up in this department could be in order. Also lead guitarist and HAWAII brainchild Marty Friedman should dispense with rubbish like "Omichan No Uta" - a monotonous piece of self indulgent soloing. But these faults apart, a strong album sure to gain HAWAII a wider audience.

BERNARD DOE

BALLANTINEZ

Charged
(Noise Mini-LP)



I can't say I've heard of this German group before. Then I suppose you haven't either. Don't worry they aren't too bad, and I'd put a wager on 'em becoming more of a name if they can write slightly better songs because like a great deal of new Euro acts coming out with some form of record they're strong in musicianship.

This mini-LP contains five tracks and has a good, clear production job from the band themselves enhancing the un-cluttered speed of "In Chains" or the introductory catchiness of "Hello"

Lead guitarist Achim Hemme does get on your nerves after a while with his wailing but he's an adequate singer with a reasonable English singing voice and I especially like the drum sound which gives each track some flair. What I don't like is what I've just read on the LP cover; "Special thanx to all wild women and all drug dealers in town". Is this the alleged MOTLEY CRUE influence? I can take the women, but drugs? Where's your responsibilities guys?

Back to the record tho'. "White Line Power" sounds very much like SADO thanks to Hemme doing a great impersonation of Andre Cook. "We Are The Rock" tries to be anthemic but doesn't quite get there and lastly "Storm Will Be Rising" is the weakest cut on offer. A case of BALLANTINEZ trying to be too clever I feel. Still, I'll keep an eye on this mob's progress but not too closely, they've still got some way to go, maybe it's the drugs.....

DAVE REYNOLDS

BLITZKRIEG

A Time Of Changes
(Neat Records)



This album has been in the making, on and off, for over three years. So was it worth the wait? Well if you've been into the band like me since their "Blitz Alive" tape and "Buried Alive" single days then yes it's certainly been worth it.

For the recording of this album lead vocalist Brian Ross recruited original BLITZKRIEG members, guitarist Jim Siroto and bassist Mick Moore (now with AVENGER) together with ex-TYGERS OF PAN TANG guitarist, Mick

Procter and BLIND FURY drummer Sean Taylor.

Musically, BLITZKRIEG deliver pure solid heavy metal harking back to the days of the NWOBHM boom, and in Brian Ross the band have one of the country's best metal vocalists.

The album kicks off with a haunting instrumental entitled "Ragnarok" courtesy of guest keyboard player Ian Boddy (who also appears on "Vikings") before launching into the excellent hard driving "Inferno" which first saw the light of day on Neat's "Leadweight" compilation.

Other familiar material includes "Saviour" with its climatic ending, the superb "Armageddon" and "Blitzkrieg" which of course METALLICA covered last year on their "Creeping Death" single.

Also included is a version of the old SATAN stage favourite "Pull The Trigger" featuring guest appearances from SATAN/BLIND FURY guitarist Russ Tippins and AVENGER lead singer Ian Swift on backing vocals.

Of the newer numbers "Vikings" and "A Time Of Changes" I find a little disappointing. Both are rather long drawn out affairs, especially the title track, and are also too disjointed for my liking. Far better is the fast paced

metal of "Hell To Pay".

Despite a couple of flaws "A Time Of Changes" is undoubtedly a worthwhile album from one of Britain's most promising Heavy Metal bands.

BERNARD DOE

SERGEANT

Sergeant
(Mausoleum Records)



Having just had to sit through the STEELOVER LP this album comes over as quite a surprise. SERGEANT are a five-piece Swiss/English band, and this I believe is their second LP.

Of the five tracks on side one, I think "Upside Down" and "Rollin'" stand out the most. They are catchy and they hold your attention, unlike "The Steelover" which I found very tedious and boring. There is also some first rate guitar playing from Bob Seales who used to play in the STEVE WHITNEY BAND, and the rest of the band prove that they are worthy musicians.

Side two kicks off with "Paradise", which in a way

reminds me of early THIN LIZZY, followed by "I've Got To Know" which seems to drag on a bit, but nevertheless does have some good keyboard work and again some great guitar playing. "Are You Lonely" and "Good Time Loser" end side two. I quite enjoyed this LP but the production could have been better.

DAVE SHAW

JAG WIRE

Made In Heaven
(Target Entertainment Group)



A couple of months back I got a snake shaped picture disc single by a band called SIN this single was called "On The Run". This single must rate amongst the classics of our time; it reeked of ANGEL and featured ex-STEELER bassist Rik Fox. Now Mark Leonard has sneekingly signed up JAG WIRE; which is SIN minus Rik Fox but has the addition of ex-RATT man Joey Cristfanilli.

If you can imagine a heavier version of WHITE SISTER with an added GUIFFRIA style keyboard overdose; then you have JAG WIRE. Opening cut "All My Love" proves itself to be a real startler of the finest pedigree. But it's with "On The Run" that JAG WIRE prove their real magnificance. This version hasn't quite captured the raw energy of the Azra single version, but it sure as hell blows a lot of other US acts into oblivion.

Title track "Made In Heaven" captures all the pomp balladry that ANGEL were once so famous for. Vocalist Art Deresh may not possess the most commercially viable vocal range but he certainly makes a change from all those Dio/Vince Neil clones. The "Love Can't Wait" intro is a direct steal from NEW ENGLAND's "Don't Ever Wanna Lose Ya" (see you in Court boys!) but it still has that certain atmosphere that allows you to forgive. The remaining cuts on the album are all classy affairs especially the closing cut "Traitor" where killer axe work meets synthesized wizardry in one long battle, with Vince Gilbert's keyboard wizardry coming out on top..

All in all, a menacing debut for those of you with finer musical tastes and I haven't mentioned ANGEL in this paragraph. (Must be a first... Ed.)

KELV HELLRAZER

CUTTY SARK

Heroes
(Mausoleum Skull 8375)



We haven't heard from CUTTY SARK at all since I reviewed last year's "Die Tonight" debut, perhaps it was because I rated STEELER's LP higher? So here we are with album number two. Will it get the Shades seal of approval as much as the "Hard Rock Power" EP or very Constable approved "Die Tonight" did? Questions. Questions. The answer to the latter is, so far No!

Things appear lost in a very murky production and vocalist Conny Schmitt is drowned out in a sea of guitar antics performed by Uwe Cossmann on opener "Firebird". "Heroes" manages to grab the attention with a reasonable tune but what the hell is Conny actually singing? The lyrics are inaudible! "Do Come True" and "Smell A Rat" don't do anything for me at all.

I had high hopes for this band when "Hard Rock Power" was released; I was moved by that record's originality, excitement and energy but after managing to survive side one of "Heroes" mediocrity I was hesitant to flip it over. To be fair to the band I did listen to side two and, surprise, surprise it was as I had imagined, uninspiring and very boring... especially the nonsical 'epic' ballad "Love The World Away". I'm afraid to say it but Mausoleum have a dud with this one.

DAVE REYNOLDS

MANILLA ROAD

Open The Gates
(Black Dragon 002)



"Open The Gates" is MANILLA ROAD's fourth album and is really a continuation of their last epic, "Crystal Logic", it depicts the second coming of King Arthur and the sword of lightning (Excalibur) to Midgard (Earth), where he opens the long forgotten Gates Of Avalon and the Nine Doors Of Valhalla, to unite the brave warriors to fight in the last great battle, and restore Arthur to his crown and title as Pen Dragon.

It's all stirring stuff, but what about the music? Well, it's certainly an album that has to be listened to, three or four times, before you can appreciate the sophisticated brilliance of the raunchous "Metalstrom", the subtle balladic "Astron-

omica" and the intense heaviness of "Witches Brew".

One thing in the past that I've always felt let MANILLA ROAD down were Mark Shelton's vocals and although they show a slight improvement here, they are still the weak link for a band who rely so much in their lyrical content to relay the concept of their albums. I believe that MANILLA ROAD should seriously consider adding a lead vocalist of some note which will improve the overall presentation of the band.

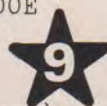
As a guitarist Mark Shelton is faultless and lays down some excellent lead breaks, especially on the fast paced "Heavy Metal To The World", which for me is the albums best track.

There are a couple of tracks that do nothing for me, namely "The Fires Of Mars" and the long and drawn out "The Ninth Wave". Also the overall production could be better. But "Open The Gates" is still a worthwhile album and with a running time of 54 minutes, including a 12" EP, it's certainly value for money.

BERNARD DOE

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Metal Massacre VI
(Metal Blade/Steam Hammer)



The longest metal compilation saga continues. But unlike the recent Music For Nations compilation "Metal Massacre VI" is strictly for hardcore thrashers only. Also, with a couple of exceptions, much of the material as yet isn't available on vinyl elsewhere.

The Black Metal thrash of POSSESSED opens the proceedings in excellent style with "Swing Of The Axe" followed by the wild aggressive metal of NASTY SAVAGE and "XXX".

STEEL ASSASSIN's "Executioner" is a fast paced rocker very much in the MAIDEN/PRIEST mould and although not a bad track, I much prefer the power metal of "Tear Down The Walls" from MAYHEM who are a five-piece outfit from Oregon and shouldn't be confused with the New York, Deathcore thrashers, of the same name.

Despite some great lead-work on "Easy Way Out", HADES come over rather disappointing and are capable of a lot better. In comparison HALLOW'S EVE are fuckin' excellent and their faultless offering of the frantic "Metal Merchants"

is the ace in the pack here and I can't wait for their album.

Another promising band are HIRAX and although a short track - just two minutes - "Bombs Of Death" is still a neck breaking piece of power metal.

It's the first time I've heard PATHFINDER and the MAIDEN on speed approach of "Fountain Keeper" sounds really promising. I'd like to hear more.

Another band I've not really heard before are THE OBSESSED, who on "Concrete Cancer" sound very OZZY/SABBATH influenced.

"Welcome To The Slaughterhouse" from DARK ANGEL is of course from the bands great debut album. Which leaves Holland's MARTYR who are the only non-North American band on the album, but fully justify their inclusion with the MAIDEN/FATEish "En Masse (Stand Or Die)" to complete the years best metal compilation album so far.

BERNARD DOE

STEELOVER

Glove Me
(Mausoleum Records)



STEELOVER are a multinational band, featuring two Italians, two Belgians and a Canadian vocalist. The drummer is none other than Rudy Lenner, formerly with THE SCORPIONS, and guess what this LP sounds very much like THE SCORPIONS, with vocalist Vince Cardill doing a very good Klaus Meine impression.

"Forever" starts of the proceedings and it seems to plod on forever and at 3 minutes 31 seconds it's also the longest track on side one. It's not the best track to start an LP off as I think the listener would loose interest very quickly. I certainly did. "Give It Up" follows and is much more catchy but again the comparison to THE SCORPIONS is very much alive as it is with the whole LP.

"Rock Bottle" follows which is also nothing to shout home about, but the guitar work does improve a little. "Hold Tight" and "Need The Heat" close side one with the latter being a lot faster than the rest of the tracks here.

Overall I found this LP very disappointing and boring, so I won't go into side two as I will end up throwing myself out of the window!

DAVE SHAW

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TYRANT

Mean Machine
(Mausoleum Records)



With a lead vocalist named Kermit, I was very tempted to label TYRANT as Muppet Metal. But nothing would be further from the truth as "Mean Machine" is a most promising debut from this German quintet.

From the killer opening track "Free For All" to the humping metal(Hi Dave!) of "Wanna Make Love", side one is packed with catchy riffs and impressive lead breaks.

"Making Noise And Drinking Beer" and "I'm Ready" are very much in the early ACCEPT mould while "We Stay Free" hints at touches of SAVATAGE especially in the Jon Oliva like vocals of that man Kermit.

In comparison side two is a little disappointing with the more mundane offerings of "Grapes Of Wrath", "Invaders" and "Tyrant" which is based around a carbon copy riff of DOKKEN's "Paris".

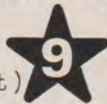
Happily the album finishes off in fine style with the powerful "Killer Cat" and the slightly MAIDENish "Blood Suckin' Woman" which despite the rumours has absolutely nothing to do with Dave Reynolds recent trip to Florida!

Like I said at the beginning "Mean Machine" is a promising debut.

BERNARD DOE

X-RAY

Shout
(Continental-Jap Import)



I've never been a great fan of Japanese Heavy Metal, they always seem to be lacking that killer punch, and when 'Banger Bernard' told me to review the new X-RAY LP, I thought I would have to sit through 40 minutes of sub-standard Jap metal. But how wrong I was!

Side one starts off with "Stardust Way" which reminds me of BON JOVI, and also has a first class guitar solo from Shin Yuasa.

Next up is "Wait For Tomorrow" and it's plain to see that these 5 metal mid-gets take their influences from America, and what they do, they do well, even though the lyrics don't make sense. Check out "Play Your Rock/We Can't Get It Fantasy". Understand it? No, I didn't either. "I'm In You" and "Tell Me About Yourself" close side one with the former being in the same high energy vein as the first two tracks. The latter starts off with some great keyboards from Takahiro

Fujiyama and builds up to a climax with the guitarist pulling out all the stops. This reminds me very much of GIUFFRIA and what a track to close side one.

As I said earlier I wasn't looking forward to this, but having played it I am totally hooked on it. Great production and musicianship makes this LP even more worthwhile.

DAVE SHAW

EXCITER

Long Live The Loud
(Music For Nations)



I must admit I'm a pretty big EXCITER fan and therefore just a tiny bit biased in their favour when it comes to reviews. However even the neutrals amongst you will be impressed by the Canadian thrashers third offering.

"Long Live The Loud" is packed with dynamic riffs, - death defying solos and screaming vocals which combined with some of the most powerful rhythms in HM today, combine to blow most thrash bands into wimpem obscurity.

Highpoints within include the title track, the death of "I Am The Beast" and the epic "Wake Up Screaming".

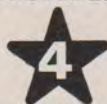
My favourite track however is "Born To Die" which although much slower than your average EXCITER offering has one hell of a riff which grabs you where it hurts and will surely become a fave in headbanging haunts worldwide.

So, EXCITER are back, dare I say with a vengeance. Buy this or be a total wimp.

DAVE CONSTABLE

THOR

Only The Strong
(Roadrunner)



It seems a long time since the MF team first caught sight of THOR live. It was a hilarious sight, but by the end of the set many of us were won over by the sheer cheek of the man, to hold the Heavy Metal banner up high and leave it open to ridicule through his tongue-in-cheek music; if not convinced that sidekick Pantera was a major contribution to road safety. (ouch!)

Signed and hyped by Ultra-noise THOR released a brace of singles and last seen had a second-on-the-bill slot at W.A.S.P.'s Lyceum bash (WRATHCHILD blew everybody off of course!). Since then the huge Nordic (sic) rock star has kept a low(?) profile.

Now with Roadrunner, his second full album is unleash-

ed onto an eager market. I kinda feel he's missed the boat. The latest craze in HM circles is the anarchic crunch of Death Metal (who the fuck invented such a wimpy term as 'Thrash Metal'???) so the tacky bubblegum stomp of THOR is now a thing of the past, a fad that has disappeared into that big black hole along with other victims of the public's heart to meet their (Mercyful) fate.

Can THOR return to his previous (albeit, cult) stature? After an earful of this LP I would suggest that if he does come back to the UK, for him to expect not to sell out Hammersmith Odeon, The Dominion, Lyceum or even The Marquee. The album isn't the worst album around, it's just so cliché ridden (as always), boring, old-hat, kids-stuff and phrases like 'Muppet-Metal', 'Weenie-anthems' and 'Take It Off' come to mind.

Songs such as "Only The Strong", "Start Raising Hell" and "Hot Flames" don't come across as original, new or exciting; But I am glad that THOR's crass gems "Let The Blood Run Red" and "Thunder On The Tundra" have been included. These two are so mind-numbingly Spinal Tap fodder that it makes you wonder why THOR and friends didn't star in that movie rather than a bunch of yank comedians wanking about like a 'typical British rock band'. Brilliant, quite brilliant. Shame about the album in general.

DAVE REYNOLDS

WARHEAD

Speedway
(Mausoleum Records)



This young 4-piece from Brussels have sure come up with one-hell of a debut album.

Opening up with the title track, the intro riffs sound an awful lot like VAN HALEN's "Running With The Devil". But these soon make way for some serious neck breaking thrash of awesome quality and sets the pace perfectly for the rest of the album.

"Kill The Witch", "Driver", "Attack Of The Shark" and "First Light Of The Apocalypse" all possess a similar raw aggression to that of MOTORHEAD and are delivered with modern day youthful enthusiasm.

Certainly an essential buy, "Speedway" immediately places WARHEAD at the forefront of Euro-Death Metal.

BERNARD DOE

GRAVE DIGGER

Witch Hunter
(Noise N0020)



This German quartet continue where they left off with their promising "Heavy Metal Breakdown" album.

It's all fairly frantic stuff on side one as the title track, "Nightdrifter" and "Get Ready For Power" all charge along in typical GRAVEDIGGER fashion. "Love Is A Game" though, is a little too slow and drawn out for my liking and rather disappointing.

GRAVEDIGGER's strength lies in their catchy riffs, simplicity of their songs and the unique vocals of Chris Boltendahl and are delivered none better than on the powerful "Get Away".

In comparison the more pedestrianized "Here I Stand" and "Friends Of Mine" are of only average quality, and I much prefer the heads down no-nonsense assault of "Fight For Freedom" which features some excellent soloing from Peter "Speedfinger" Masson.

The surprise inclusion of ALICE COOPER's "Schools Out" proves fully justified and is an excellent version of the Cooper/Bruce penned classic.

There's no doubt that "Witch Hunter" is a fine successor to "Heavy Metal Breakdown" and is thoroughly recommended to those who like their metal kept plain and simple but delivered with modern day enthusiasm.

BERNARD DOE

SHY

Brave The Storm
(RCA Records)



This is an extremely hard one to review; I gave SHY's Ebony debut nine stars in MF a couple of issues back. So how many stars do I give an LP that is ten times better? SHY have certainly come a long way since that debut. On this LP the keyboards are far more prominent also the band have brought in electric drums and orchestral harmonies to give a real sparkling touch to the album.

The new single "Hold On -- (To Your Love)" opens the album and is very reminiscent of STARSHIP's "Jane". "My Appollo" follows in fine style, the delicate keyboard takes the number into a real uptempo little rocker. Paddy McKenna coming across as a GUIFFRIA clone in this number. Steve Harris' guitar is real moving stuff

his name will be up with the best when this LP comes out. "Reflections" culled from the first LP on RCA's request is possible the greatest ballad of all time along with LEGS DIAMOND's "Woman". Tony Mills proves on this number that without a doubt that he is the best new singer in the country (ECT aside). The next two numbers are absolute classics, "Keep The Fires Burning", and "The Hunter" are pomp epics of mammoth proportions. Tony Mills glass shattering vocals on "The Hunter" are the real Taison de etre.

Roy "The Glove" Davis opens side two with a punchy bassline as the intro for the title track which is another killer epic similar to the last numbers. "Wild, Wild Woman" is a bit of a disappointment in comparison with the rest of the LP. "Caught In The Act" yet another epic is also classic stuff, challenging SUGARCREEK's "Conquest For The Commoner" for the best pomp track of all time. LP closer "Was I Wrong" was used in the Radio One session (as was "My Appollo") this version leaves the earlier one standing. Brilliant! Brilliant! AOR-Death if there is such a thing.

SHY definately are the best in their field as this LP proves and although bands like TOBRUK, TARAZARA, XS and BON JOVI are good, SHY destroy all of them with this classic LP.

KELV HELLRAZER

VORTEX

Metal Bats
(Vortex)



These Dutch metallist's have been around a few years, appearing on a couple of compilation albums as well as producing a cluster of demo tapes.

"Metal Bats" is a self-financed album and features six numbers of varying quality. Musically the band have a JUDAS PRIEST type of sound with "Gotta Get Away" and "The Curse" being the better examples.

"With Witches Help" is the kind of comic book metal that is best left to the likes of MANOWAR and THOR. It just doesn't suit the VORTEX style at all.

The weak link in the band has to be singer, Jurjen Tichelaarski, whose vocals are not as half as dominating as they should be, especially on the title track and

"(Rolling) To The War" where he ruins an otherwise strong rocker, with some great soloing from Martjo Brongers and Berend Stegeman.

The final cut on the album "Alienation" suffers from a terrible intro, but is not bad, once it gets going.

For more info on VORTEX write to: Mozartstraat 41b, 9722 EB Groningen, HOLLAND.

BERNARD DOE



ZNOWHITE

Kick 'Em When They're Down
(Enigma Mini-LP)

I wonder whether Uncle Frank Sinatra ever envisaged a band as powerful as the train in 'Von Ryans Express' to scream out of the city he made famous with that song and film? For Chicago's ZNOWHITE are the heaviest band fronted by a female singer I've EVER heard, led as they are by the leather lunged Nicole Lee who wails and screams her way through the five tracks here.

To be honest I don't think it quite captures the brilliance of the "All Hail To Thee" disc but I'm by no means putting it down because quite honestly it's a very intense record showcasing Ian Tafoya's guitar talents to the hilt. (Well, he was responsible for writing all the songs). "Live For The Weekend" crushes along like MOTORHEAD on a mission to Mars.. Fast, intense and out of control. Tafoya's lead-break is something else. The trouble is the track is too short. "All Hail To Thee" is a little more restrained and suffers a little in production. It's probably the most disappointing ZNOWHITE song I've heard, it's OK but isn't too strong contents wise, unlike the very painful but highly recommended "Run Like The Wind". Heads will roll eh Nicole? I detect slight PRIEST/TWISTED SISTER influences peeping through on this.

To round off we're dealt severe blows to the head with "Too Late" and "Turn Up The Pain". The former delivering the goods in the Death stakes whilst the latter is an awesome monster itching for a top notch production. I personally feel "All Hail To Thee" to be a better record but the learning process never harmed anybody. Let's have more production soon.

DAVE REYNOLDS

CROSSFIRE

Second Attack
(Mausoleum Records)



Following last years promising debut, "See You In Hell", CROSSFIRE return with their latest epic.

In the main "Second Attack" is an awesome deliverance of power metal, with standout numbers being "Feeling Down", the title track and the totally frenzied "Atomic War" with its climatic ending - superb.

Side two is a little more restrained than side one but still fairly lethal, especially the menacing "Master Of Evil".

The ballad, "Running For Love" tends to be a little boring but closes with some great soloing from Marc Van Caelenberge.

"Highway Driver" and "Scream Out" make up the rest of the album which is strongly recommended to all speed metal enthusiasts.

BERNARD DOE

STEELER

Rulin' The Earth
(Earthshaker)



I've always championed this band, the only thing I feel lets them down are the rather weak vocals of Peter Burtz. The guy is OK live and though he's improved a great deal from STEELER's debut his performance here shows he needs to get much stronger if he wants not to be the albatross round the band's neck.

In a purely musical sense STEELER cannot be faulted. The twin axe attack of Axel Rudi Pell and Thomas Eider blitz through, with a couple of exceptions, a fine collection of metal songs. "Shellshock" builds upon foundations made by the first album and in fact Peter handles this one reasonably well although I don't go much for the joke ending. "Let The Blood Run Red" has a JUDAS PRIEST streak and is slightly touched by commercial overtones I particularly like Jan Yildirals drumming on this. In fact he's very good throughout, ably helped by the heavy bass of Volker Krawezak.

"Maniac" is a fast paced belter, a sure-fire hit with the Zeche headbangers, Pell and Eider compete to the death. Axel Rudi Pell is destined to be one of Germany's guitar greats on a par with Schenker, Hoffmann or Roth. Astounding. His

tongue must've been firmly in cheek when STEELER first put together "SFMI". What does it mean? I don't know yet but it wouldn't surprise me if it stood for "Spiel Fuckin' Maiden - instrumental" because it is a total rip-off of the horse race pace that IRON MAIDEN have established as their trademark. Quite brilliant! I don't think many critics will understand the joke.

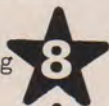
On a negative note I think the title track as an opener could put people off buying it if they only hear this song as it's nowhere near STEELER's best. "Heading For The End" has a pretty poor start but improves to a good climatic ending whilst "Run With The Pack" has to be the worst album track, Peter's vocals don't help.

Please don't think this is a personal witch hunt to oust Peter from STEELER's ranks. He is good live and if you listen to the final track on "Rulin' The Earth" - viz "Turning Wheels" you will instantly know there is signs of massive improvement. I wish him well.

DAVE REYNOLDS

SAVATAGE

The Dungeons Are Calling
(Music For Nations)



SAVATAGE

Power Of The Night
(Atlantic)



Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to rave and rant about SAVATAGE being HM's next big thing and fulfilling the potential they first showed on "Sirens". In all honesty though the band have failed to live up to their debut offering although "Dungeons" is a worthwhile release with 3 excellent tracks. (It's a pity the other 3 come across as space-fillers) Still the title track is a wonderful slab of power with a great riff whilst the two tracks culled from the AVATAR single, (one of metals finest ever releases) still sound as good today as ever - "City Beneath The Surface" is an all-time classic. "The Whip" is also a killer of course, but of the other songs only "By The Grace Of The Witch" really cuts it - delete the other two - "Visions" and "Midas Knight" both sound like ancient rejects to me. Still a worthwhile purchase. I'm not so convinced by "Power Of The Night" however. I know it's easy to slag off any band signed to a major who have

been picked up from cult status, but SAVATAGE's problem is not so much wimping out or going commercial, but really a severe lack of good material.

The title track is a good start and promises much with a doom laden riff whilst "Unusual" is more catchy but lighter - but from then on it's downhill all the way. The real pits coming with side two's opener "Hard For Love" - truly horrible! So wimpy, overall a let-down of an LP - come on SAVATAGE get back to the roots which made you one of the leading cult groups around.

DAVE CONSTABLE

KILLERS

Le Fils De La Haine
(Devils Records)



ADX

Execution
(Devils Records)



The French have been a little slow in catching onto the current power/thrash metal trend. But Devil's Records have just unleashed two homegrown bands who prove that the French are more than capable of coming up with the goods.

"Le Fils De La Haine" (which in English means "Son Of Hatred") in particular contains some of the best Euro power metal I've heard this year. The title track and "Sacrifice" are classic thrashers and the instrumentation of the band is superb with lead guitarist Didier Deboffe unleashing some great soloing.

There are a couple of weakish tracks, namely the PRIESTish "Heavy Metal" and the mundane ACCEPT like "Killers" also Patrice Le Calvez's vocals could be better in places. But still a stunning debut.

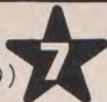
ADX too have come up with a highly promising debut. They may lack the overall intensive power of KILLERS but have a better vocalist in Phil and an exciting twin lead combo in Marquis and Betob. At times ADX get very MAIDENish like on "Deesse Du Crime" and "Caligula" but it's generally all frantic stuff with "Le Fleau De Dieu" and the instrumental "Execution" being the best tracks. The latter featuring some nice 'head bouncing' at the end.

The fact that both bands sing in French may restrict their worldwide appeal, but KILLERS and ADX are still well worth checking out.

BERNARD DOE

WARRANT

First Strike
(Noise Mini-LP N-0019)



Yet more German speed metal, this time in the shape of the Dusseldorf trio, WARRANT.

To be honest the first two numbers had me labeling this band as no-hopers. "Satan" and "Ready To Command" are nothing more than mundane metal tunes that we've heard a thousand times before.

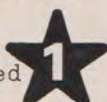
It's not really until the third track that WARRANT get their arse into gear and get down to playing some serious speed metal. "Condemned Forever" unleashes some excellent riffing from Thomas Klein which is even bettered by the frenzied assault of "Scavengers Daughter" (the album's best track) and the bludgeoned attack of "Bang That Head".

WARRANT still have a lot to learn before they can join the first division power metallists and thrashers. Lotar Wieners drumming, although solid, needs to be a little more adventurous and the same can be said of Thomas Klein's, almost anonymous lead breaks. But overall not a bad debut and well worth getting hold of if you can excuse a couple of duff tracks.

BERNARD DOE

MARINO THE BAND

Wanna Keep You Satisfied
(LRM Records)



MARINO THE BAND feature the lovely Lisa Dominique and prove, just like the vastly over-rated FIONA, that stunning looks don't always account for stunning vocals. Lisa may gain the band a fair amount of press coverage and TV appearances with her good looks but her performance as a lead singer leaves a lot to be desired. To be fair she's not helped by the appalling material which can best be described as a mixture of soft and country rock, which only occasionally borders on the fringes of heavy rock with "Listen To My Heart" and "Suzie Don't Rock'n'Roll".

As a guitarist Marino (the man) is nothing special either and to be quite honest the band need a 100% improvement in EVERY department if they are hoping to go anywhere, other than to the bottom of the nearest garbage tip!

BERNARD DOE

LIONS BREED

Damn The Night
(Earthshaker)



Loved the JUDAS PRIEST rip-off of "Heavy Current". Similarities with fellow Earthshaker's ATLAIN abound. Overall it's a reasonably good, heavy metal album, another one for vinyl fetishists everywhere (especially those with a passionate craving for those naughty lady sleeves pioneered by THE SCORPIONS) and certainly Earthshaker have the cream of the German metal scene in my opinion (Admittedly Noise do have SADO).

On first hearing LIONS BREED didn't appeal to me a great deal, but like wine they are an acquired taste and I soon got into heavy metal thunderers of the "Searover", "All Night Be Damned" ilk, crass tho' they are lyrically. But when has Heavy Metal been anything serious or thought provoking man? There ARE bands who can write HM with a message but LIONS BREED aren't one of them. Just enjoy OK? Need I have to say that this one's produced by Axel Thubeauville too?!

DAVE REYNOLDS

BAD STEVE

Killing The Night
(Mausoleum Records)



BAD STEVE are the band formed by ex-ACCEPT guitarist Jan Komet and there will be no prizes for guessing who this band sound like.

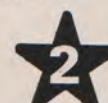
Unfortunately most of the material is third rate, unimaginative plod rock and is even less exciting than that "Metal Heart" garbage.

The commercial "Across The Rainbow" is probably about the albums best track but would be considered weak on even an average metal album and just underlines how poor the rest of "Killing The Night" is.

BERNARD DOE

HUSTLER

Now Or Never
(Axe Killer)



Another release from Axe Killer, the label who have dared to unleash DARK ANGEL, CHARIOT and MYSTERY BLUE on the unsuspecting French. So does HUSTLER's debut impress moi? Did it hell.

There is a deep dark veil over the 'production' or lack of it. The songs, apparently sung in English, are poor. This band represents a huge dent in the credibility of

Axe Killer. The vocalist/guitarist Jerome Serapiglia has to be the best thing about HUSTLER as he's obviously a big fan of Lemmy. Does he sound like him? No, that's the most hilarious thing!

The sound is so seventies, so acidic; as interesting as Heathrow Airport at one in the morning. If it wasn't my policy to listen to everything I've been given to reviews in its entirety then this would've been thrown off the turntable half-way through the first track. Take it from me this is one LP not to buy.

DAVE REYNOLDS

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Strictly For Konnoisseurs
(Music For Nations)



Double LP of wimp classics chosen by the non-entities who scribble for Kerrudd. Some of the stuff here is essential ie: ANGEL, LEGS DIAMOND, DESMOND CHILD, ROADMASTER etc, but if you like this stuff you'll have the originals already. Just an excuse for those who know little about good music to prove that and add to their fame.

DAVE CONSTABLE

TROUBLE

The Skull
(Metal Blade/Roadrunner)



"The Skull" is TROUBLE's second album and again the early SABBATH influences are very much in evidence. Although when coupled with the PRIEST like twin-guitar attack of Rick Wartell and Bruce Franklin it gives the Chicago-based band a rather unique, unmistakable metal sound for the eighties.

TROUBLE's rather doomy, sometimes off-beat, approach takes a lot of getting into, but tracks such as "Fear No Evil", "Wickedness Of Man" and the 11 minute plus epic of "The Wish" still ooze with class and make "The Skull" one of the most intense metal releases of '85.

BERNARD DOE

FORTRESS

Fortress
(Havoc Records)



No not the old pomp-wimp rubbish of the same name, these guys are in a different class altogether ie: far lower. Raw and poor.

DAVE CONSTABLE

EVO · GUNNER · FALKEN ARE

WARFARE

WARFARE PLAY METAL ANARCHY

METAL ANARCHY IS THE 'TOTAL DEATH EP'

COMING TO BLOW YOUR MIND SOON ON NEAT RECORDS

PRODUCED BY ALGY WARD OF TANK

SINGLES & E.P.'S

LIVING DEATH

Watch Out"
(Earthshaker 12")

Brilliant, high energy metal from West Germany's death metal commando's. The A-side "Watch Out" is six minutes plus of riff happy metallic music, slightly more mature in delivery from previous output and if this is what Reiner Kelch meant by a slow song then I await the forthcoming second album with excitement.

The 'b' side contains three re-mixed mayhem cuts from the "Vengeance Of Hell" album 100% more powerful and addictive than previously thanks to the superb drumming of new boy Andreas Oberhoff. "Night Light" benefits the most of the three.

It's an old journalistic phrase but this is an essential purchase.

DAVE REYNOLDS

LYDIAN

Sky Is On Fire
(Cat Trax Records)

LYDIAN is a nineteen-year-old female with immense talent. She fronts her own band doing vocals and keyboards and she does a good job of it. "Sky Is On Fire" is the 'A' side of the single and out of the two tracks available I would say it is the weakest, but it's still of a very high standard. Bonnie Tyler I would say is LYDIAN's nearest comparison, although music wise LYDIAN is a helluva lot gutsier. Guitarists Doug Luttenet and Glen Muia really give the number the added balls as they crunch away at their axes.

"Sweet Surrender" seen

LYDIAN letting loose on her keyboards at the intro, then the number takes off in to a piece of AOR magic, the axe solo is hot as well. LYDIAN still has a lot to learn vocally, but I'm sure it's nothing that experience couldn't take care of. LYDIAN is visiting these shores round about now, so look out for the imminent FORCES feature.

Write to LYDIAN, c/o Panther Productions, P.O. Box 205, Mogadore, Ohio, 44260, U.S.A. KELV HELLRAZER

CHASER

Raiders/Final Stand

Average commercially tinged NWOBHM fodder from this Ipswich based band. The single is reasonably well produced and played to merit a listen but ultimately fails to light anything up in my rock'n'roll soul. It may do yours though.

Formed in 1980 as STORM-CHILD they changed to their current moniker one and a half years ago and have apparently built up a strong following in and around the East Anglian area. The band are Steve Baker (vocals), Clive Richardson (drums), Kevin Rogers (bass), Adam Shells-well (rhythm guitar) and Kevin Clark (lead guitar).

Not to be confused with the Scottish band CHASAR, the single can be obtained from: Daryl Turner, 12 Church Close, Risby, Nr Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6RH, ENGLAND. Priced at (inc p+p) £1.30 in UK, £1.50 in Europe or £2.30 elsewhere.

DAVE REYNOLDS

BLUDGEON

Why Are You Here?
Flexi-Disc

This Flexi-Disc from BLUDGEON, a four-piece band out of Minneapolis, was recently given away free with the strongly recommended, "Your Flesh" fanzine.

Musically the band show touches of METALLICA with a strong new waveish feel. A strange combination but it comes off pretty well, despite a rather weak vocal performance. Of the two numbers I would say "Bludgeon You!" is the best mainly due to some inspired frenzied soloing from Nosferatu Nostermann.

For more info on BLUDGEON and "Your Flesh" write to: Your Flesh Fanzine, Box 3107 Mpls., MN 55403, USA.

BERNARD DOE

DOUBLE'O'ZEROS

Be A Zero
(Mountain Records)

If you need something to cheer you up then grab a hold of this five tracker, from New Jersey glam bam outfit DOUBLE'O'ZEROS. Check out the into to "Be A Zero" it's gotta be heard to be believed, bloody hilarious. The DOUBLE'O's bring back memories of THE DICTATORS, it's the same kind of fun pop/comedy death. "Show Me" is possibly the heaviest cut of the numbers available, but I wouldn't call it pure HM; it's really hard to describe it. Also worth a listen is "Hose 'Em Down". The DOUBLE O's are in the UK at the moment and should be playing Gossip's in Dean St., soon. Catch'em if you dare!

KELV HELLRAZER

ENGLISH DOGS

WHITE PUNKS ON METAL

The ENGLISH DOGS first formed in October 1981. After a few line-up changes the groups members emerged as: Jon-guitar, Pinch-drums, Wattie-bass and Wakey on vocals.

They recorded two four-track demos, namely "Show No Mercy" and "Free To Kill" in 1982. The second demo they used to get gigs, the most important ones being with GBH, including Germany in January '83, this was followed by a British tour with DIS-CHARGE in March of the same year.

In June '83, they were signed up by Mike Stone of Clay Records. Clay then released a 6-track 12" by the band entitled "Mad Punx And English Dogs". After many more gigs the 12" was followed a year later by their first album, "Invasion Of The Porky Men".

There then developed a problem with the departure of their vocalist Wakey, due to personal reasons. However he was quickly replaced by Ade Bailey, ex-ULTRA VIOLENT singer. The group then added another guitarist to their ranks in the shape of Graham Butt who was with the DESTRUCTORS.

After leaving Clay Records in August '84, due to receiving no royalties for their 12" or their album, they signed to Rot Records in September.

This new deal was soon followed by a new 12", featuring 4 slices of Metal Mayhem, it was a good musical introduction to the DOGS new sound, a relentless sonic wall of churning metal insanity. The 12", "To The Ends Of The Earth", is a worthwhile addition to anyone's record collection.

The following interview was conducted by your intrepid reporter with Jon, the ENGLISH DOGS guitarist:

Was it a conscious effort on your behalf to make the change from punk to metal? "We decided we were being limited in the type of music we could play doing punk, so it was a natural progression to play more interesting songs but still with the raw edge of punk and to still appeal to the punk audience."

Knowing how many punks seem to dislike anything to do with metal (i.e. lead solos) aren't you afraid that you will lose some of your audience? "We will probably lose some of our present punk audience, but we'll gain some punks who like our new stuff. No-one can call us Heavy Metal 'cos we're not, it's more scrap metal. We'd like to have an audience that is both punk and metal orientated and we think we can achieve this."

What made you draft Graham into the band? Was it to give the band a more metallic sound? "Graham was brought into the band to allow the music to expand. Obviously you can make songs more interesting and powerful with a lead guitarist. I don't like the way some punks automatically disregard a band because they use lead breaks."

What groups do you see as major influences on the music you now play? "Any sort of thrash metal has influenced the new stuff.

It's more the sound and style of the music than any particular band."

You still include songs in your set from your first 12" and your album, do you plan to drop these songs in favour of something more metallic? "Obviously we still play some of our old songs because people coming to see us expect to hear them, especially since the last album hasn't been out that long. As new material is written and put on vinyl then the latest stuff will be the songs people want to hear, and these are being written in the new style."

I see that you are starting to write lyrics with a Black Metal vein (i.e. "Incisor") aren't you afraid you'll be labelled as just another 'satanic' band? "We are definately not and don't intend to become a satanic band. The track you mention isn't really satanic anyway it's about a werewolf!"

How would you describe your music and what makes you different from all the other speedcore bands about? "It's hard to be asked to describe your own music, but to sum it up I'd say our new style is thrash metal but mixed with the rawness of punk. The difference between us and other speedcore bands is that we're not a carbon copy of any partiular group as some bands try to be."

What are your views on today's punk scene, do you think metal will give punk the rejuvenation it needs? "Today's punk scene is stagnant and hopefully we're giving it the kick up the arse it needs to get moving again, but in a slightly different form. Yes, even if it does mean lead breaks and songs over two minutes long."

Do you think metal's current flirtation with speed will last? "I'm not really in a position to comment on the state of the metal scene not being directly involved, but it doesn't seem to lack the enthusiasm that punk once had. I think the speed of the bands will last 'cos I can't imagine them doing anything else."

Have you any record or gig plans? Would you rather support metal bands than play punk gigs? "We're currently writing material for our new album which hopefully we will start recording soon. The ideal thing that we would like to see is punks and metal maniacs attending our gigs as happens at METALLICA or VENOM concerts."

NEIL HARDING.



PIECE OF MIND

DAVE REYNOLDS Talks to JOHN McCOY, Mausoleum's Latest British Signing

Bizarre or unusual? How can I describe the rendezvous for this MF tete-a-tete with John McCoy? I think I'll plump for the latter. This little get together was made at 10.30pm in the Departures concourse of Terminal 3 at Heathrow Airport. Yours truly was there to make sure I caught an early morning flight to Miami so, to combat two hours of boredom, I'd arranged to meet the mighty McCoy there.

In retrospect it was rather a good place to conduct an interview. At that time of night the place is as quiet as a Mausoleum (a kind of paradoxical in-joke. Mausoleum's records are anything but quiet!) apart from a late foray by a few drunken foreigners of Asian origin attempting to break a table Karate style.

I have to be honest and admit to not having forced my attentions on John's previous musical exploits. I mean I've got a few (good) pieces of GILLAN product and I actually saw them once, albeit on the last tour they ever undertook. The split with the mainman was, for John at least, hardly one of tears and golden handshakes.

"GILLAN missed out on a lot of success. We were big in the UK but the management was bad and there was a certain lack of empathy on Ian's part. The last album we recorded "Magic" was just an album geared for success in America. Virgin cooked up this idea of how it was gonna be big in the States. The funniest thing was it never saw release over there. The band just lost its identity with that album.

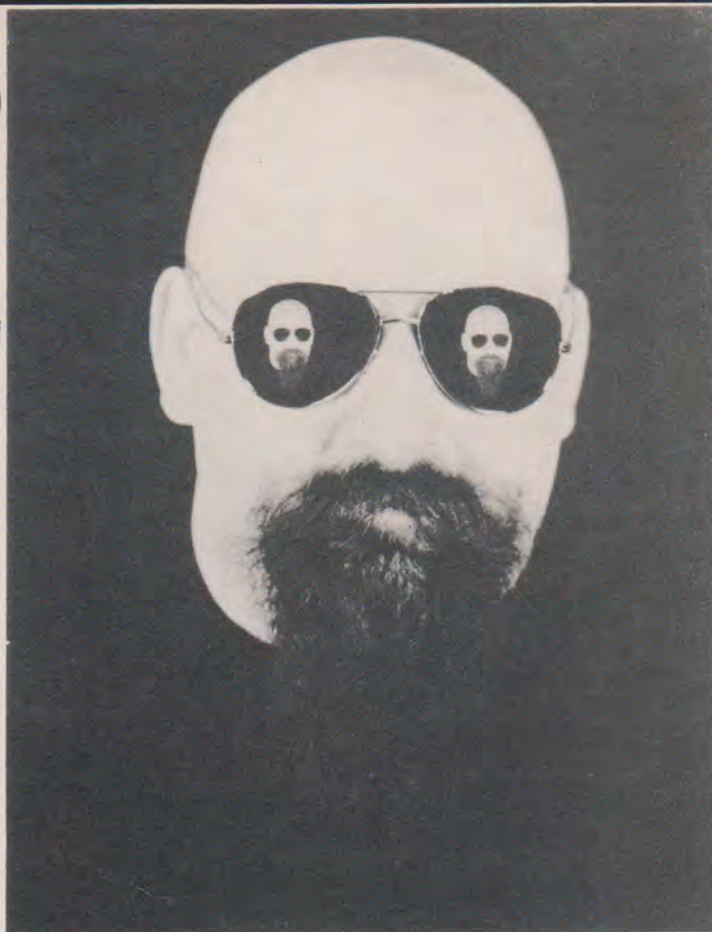
"We should've continued doing the harder material. There was absolute stunned silence when the split came."

But all the hassles regarding GILLAN are in the past. Now John has his hands full with his solo project, now with two records under his belt. The first, you may remember was the mini-LP featuring an excellent cover of FLEETWOOD MAC's "Oh Well".

"The record company were totally unprepared. They only pressed up 5,000 so it obviously had limited success. We got a good deal of radio airplay, but things could've been done better promotion-wise on that record."

Of course the I.D.S. label went under last year so now John's signed up with Belgian vinyl junkies Mausoleum and his first fully fledged album "Think Hard" has just appeared (see review elsewhere in this issue). The line-up on this album again features the talents of T-Bone (vocals), Paul Samson (guitar), Ron Rebel (drums) and Colin Towns (keyboards). So was this the definitive McCoy line up? "Well I like to keep things fluid" says the big bassist. "I mean for our next album completely different people may be used. I like to keep the nucleus of a band but new members do make things more exciting."

What about your relationship with Paul



Samson? Is he likely to stay with the band? (This was before Paul left) "The thing with Paul is that it can't keep continuing as a long term thing. I've known Paul for 10 years. SAMSON were a Heavy Metal band whereas McCoy likens itself to be adjacent to HM. I've introduced Paul to new sounds and ways of playing that has opened his eyes and ears to other possibilities. Paul has the ability but not the experience but this new album he turned out some incredible stuff. However for our forthcoming European tour Paul won't be with the band, I've got the guitarist from THE GRIP in, Mark Keen, to help out.

"After the Marquee show we played before Christmas, actually I'm trying to forget when that was, I decided that McCoy needed new blood. T-Bone is a really great guy and a great singer but he's not capable of the heavy duty McCoy live show style which can be very loud and fast. He is a session singer, a good one, but not a live singer. So the new singer is, and this might come as a surprise to you, a young lady by the name of Nikki Brooks who is definatly Kerrang lady-killer material.

"I auditioned 25 singers after listening to around 80 tapes. A couple of the guys were very good but Nikki was stunning and our first rehearsal was just fuckin' wonderful."

In addition to the European tour McCoy should be playing festivals in Belgium, Germany and Spain. They've just made a British TV appearance on the ITV Channel 4 show "ECT". Mausoleum's marketing and promotion in Europe should project John's name well enough and the respect he commands in the UK should see him OK here. Was it a hard choice choosing which record company to go with after the demise of I.D.S.? "Well we did get a great deal of interest from majors and we were on the verge of a deal with a couple before the Marquee

show but I think that put them off. Mausoleum have an air about them that is so different from any other label, it's very down to Earth, there's no bullshit whereas the majors tend to be really blase. I just had a feeling it was the right thing to do by going with them. They were very keen to get the album and they paid the money for it, which is really what it's all about when it boils down to it, isn't it?"

Do you have any projects besides your own, in the way of producing other people? (Remember John's production work on several GILLAN LP's and the SAMSON "Survivors" album?) "I'm constantly looking for something new. I've produced a track for THE GRIP which should be on a compilation album that also features McCOY, BERNIE TORME, ATOMIC ROOSTER amongst others and a projected Paul Samson solo album at the end of the year. If there are any young new bands out there looking for breaks I'd certainly like to hear them."

Feel you're up to it? If you wanna send John any of your material don't hesitate to send it to METAL FORCES who will pass it on to John.OK?



Pic David Moffitt

So we talked well onto the midnight hour. BERNIE TORME, GILLAN, O.T.T., the state of British airports all came and went, but there was one thing I've always wanted to talk to John about. His stage persona. Some liken him to the stomping evil aura of Gene Simmons. I had heard one story of John hitting some kid over the head with his bass then rubbing the machine heads down his face. Was this a result of McCoy baiting? (A little known pastime at GILLAN gigs). "Y'know I don't really know who that guy is on stage! I guess it's the excitement of being up on stage, I really go for it. I've heard lots of stories that go around about me. A lot of them are true. I have had a couple of disagreements with people in the audience in the past. There's always a small percentage of people who think they can call me a cunt. I don't like abuse, I don't think anyone should stand for it. I would like to hear from the person with my machine heads imprinted in his face I must say!!"

McCOY
THINK HARD
You saw him on TV
Now watch out for his
UK TOUR
MAY-JUNE 1985

BAD STEVE
KILLING THE NIGHT
Produced by
R. RUBACH
& H. RÜSSE
& W. LOOS

UNDERDOG
RABIES IN TOWN
Produced by
Alex GIETZ

**IF IT AINT HEAVY
IT AINT ON**
MAUSOLEUM

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Lange Veen Boesstraat 78/80 2008 Antwerp Belgium Tel: 03/235 21 12 / 1 x 33713
United Kingdom Office:
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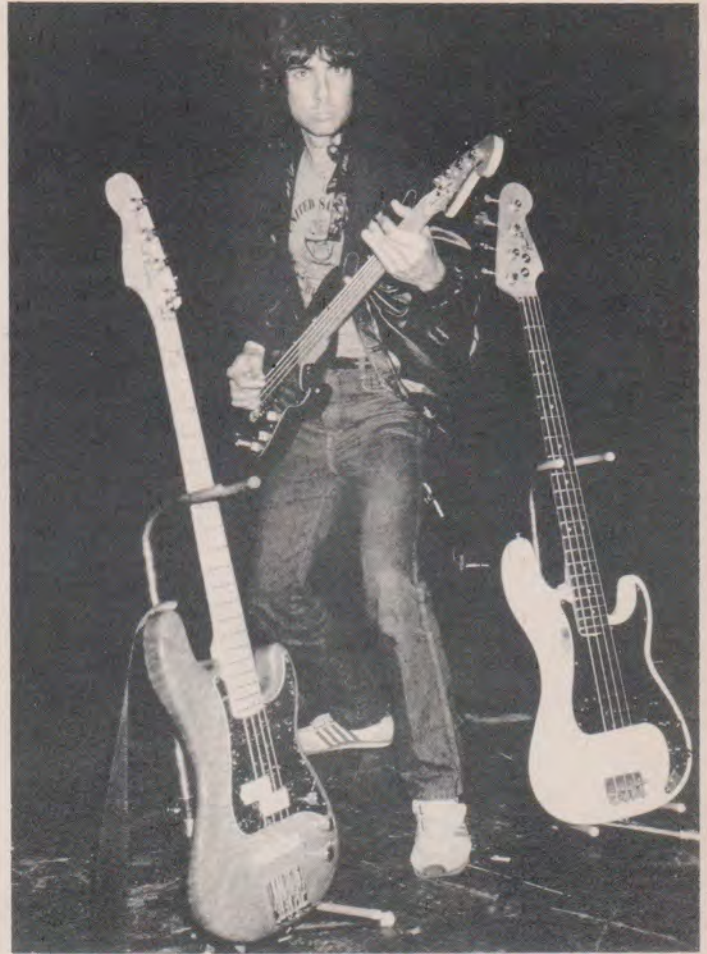
SABU ★★★=WET AND WILD

Hands up those of you who remembered the KIDD GLOVE LP of last year? Well any of you who read the sleeve credits will know that KIDD GLOVE was the baby of one - Paul Sabu; an immensley talented singer/songwriter/producer who has been floating around LA for the past couple of years. Now lets take you back a couple of years more and an LP appears named (you guessed it) SABU. An album full of wild riffs, spine chilling class and some real killer axe guitar soloing. SABU's first LP is a bit of a legend. Especially as it contains the number "Wet And Wild" which is a heavy metal classic. Playing the LP to anyone who is unfamiliar with the band will guarantee some sort of wild reaction. The line-up for the sizzling debut LP was: Paul Sabu (vocals/guitar), Rick Bozzo (bass), Dan Holmes (drums) and Stephen Pressley (keyboards).

March 1985 and a tape arrives for me courtesy of one Rick Bozzo, with six new SABU tracks, these songs are from a forth coming LP. Everyone of these six tracks is an absolute gem. Ranging from the fiery "Hot Flash", the semi-ballad ala Y&T "Breakin' Out", the RAINBOW influenced "New Girl In Town" to the mind blowing power rocking of "Shake Rattle And Roll". These have got to be about the most moving tracks I've heard in ages. No! This ain't Hellrazer blabering on about another glam/glitter band either. This is sheer musicianship all the way. The proof in the pie is the reaction it's getting everytime I play it in Shades Records. Not one person has left the shop while the tape has been playing and not asked who the artist was.

In one of my hefty trans-atlantic specials I got Rick Bozzo to fill me in on the facts about the new revitalized SABU. "The new drummer for SABU is Chuck Esposito: from 1976 to 1981 Chuck did session and production work in Germany. Chuck played for numerous European artists and worked for such producers as Georgio Moroder and Peter Hauke. Chuck also produced an album for his own band PICK-UP! From 1981 to 1983 Chuck toured the US with PICK-UP. Upon leaving the band and moving from Chicago Chuck settled in LA. He was doing studio sessions which included working with Greg Kihn. During the Kihn session, Chuck hooked up with Paul Sabu who was engineering for Kihn. The latest edition to the SABU band is Dan Ellis. Dan is originally from Canada. Dan moved to LA where he was working in the studio for various artists before joining SABU.

"As far as my history goes? Well I toured and recorded with MEATLOAF during the early 1970's. I then worked with Greg Guiffria in his ANGEL project. I actually play bass on the GUIFFRIA LP, but I didn't even get a mention on the credit notes. Someday, when I get enough money the truth is gonna come out about what exactly happened with that band. After working with GUIFFRIA I worked with a guy called Bobby Hayden. We recorded a couple of tracks. We had LITA FORD's drummer Randy Castillo in with us as well. We did a video for a song called "Livin' Free On Daddy's Money". Then seven months ago I got back together again with Paul Sabu. Paul and I have done so much session work together it's impossible to remember it all. We recorded the first two SABU LP's together, the disco-like LP on Ariola and the classic "Hard Rock" LP



Rick Bozzo

on MCA. Paul is currently producing the all girl band PRECIOUS METAL for EMI (see MF news item) Paul has also produced Kim Carnes and Sheena Easton.

"The band is currently completing the eight song LP for Heavy Metal Records. The LP should be released in the UK around June. Followed up with a promotional tour through the William Morris Agency. A couple of major US labels are also very interested in the band." After that long history I left Rick with the thought in my head that with the right promotion SABU cannot fail. Now over to you the punters.

KELV HELLRAZER

Coming Soon

YNGWIE · LIEGE LORD
CROSSFIRE · KROKUS
RAZOR · MEGADETH
SAVAGE GRACE · TROY

MALTESE FALCON



METAL REBELS

The current boom in Scandinavian heavy metal has thrust many a worthy talent forward in search of global recognition, and MALTESE FALCON are another hoping to emulate the success of their Danish counterparts PRETTY MAIDS and MERCYFUL FATE (R.I.P.).

The band were formed in June 1983 by vocalist Charlie and guitarist Martin Petersen who used to be in a band together called DEADLINE. They recruited Masse Patino (bass) Stig Nielsen (drums) and a second guitarist Carsten Schmidt.

Now unlike many bands who have adopted their style and image to jump on the current Black Metal bandwagon, MALTESE FALCON have gone about things in reverse fashion as Charlie explains: "We started out as a Black Metal band but we got fed up with that, it was so negative and also we were always being compared to MERCYFUL FATE and we didn't like that because we wanted to create our own style."

Although the image and lyrical content changed, the music remained in a very heavy SABBATH/OZZY OSBOURNE mould and it was their third demo that secured them their record deal with Roadrunner Records and the release of their debut album "Metal Rush" in September last year.

The album, together with a couple of support gigs with GARY MOORE and MANOWAR has helped gain the band a steady underground following.

However, things have been fairly quite in 1985 for MALTESE FALCON but now the band are back with a new drummer and begin recording their new album in July at the Hook Farm Studio in Copenhagen. "Our new drummer is Flemming Kenneth who used to be in DARK MISSION. Our old drummer Stig left because he said he was "pissed off with heavy metal"!

"Anyway Flemming uses two bass drums and I feel that our songs now have that extra punch that was maybe missing before."

Tracks that should be on the new, as yet untitled, album include "Hellhunter", "Twilight Zone", "Rest In Peace", "Final Attack", "Refugee", "Hotel Styx" and "They Came To Kill" which according to Charlie "are much heavier and faster than anything on the "Metal Rush" album". To coincide with the album's release MALTESE FALCON will be touring Holland and Belgium.

For more information and fan club details send an SAE/IRC to: MALTESE FALCON, Banerkranten 9, 2760 Malov, DENMARK.

BERNARD DOE

DEMO-LITION

DESTRUCTOR

This demo was sent to me following my review of the Cleveland Heavy Metal "Etched In Steel" compilation when I remarked how suprising it was that there were no thrash metal bands on the album. Well, DESTRUCTOR are from Cleveland, DESTRUCTOR are a Thrash Metal band and DESTRUCTOR are fuckin' brilliant!!

The band were formed early last year by Pat Rabid(guitar), Dave Overkill(vocals/guitar) & Paul Warhead(bass). Latest recruit is drummer Matt Flammable.

Entitled "Smash Your Skulls With Power" the demo contains five excellent numbers ranging from the thrash of "Iron Curtain" and "Instrumetal" (yes, an instrumental featuring some excellent soloing), the thrashier "Pounding Evil" to the ultra-thrash of "Overdose" and the excellent "Destructor". As Constable would say .."Unreal!"..."Total Death!".... The latter number is like a frenzied amalgamation of SLAYER, EXODUS and EXCITER into one intense package.

DESTRUCTOR, who stress that they are def-



initely not a Black Metal band, will soon be recording their debut "Pounding Metal" EP for Auburn Records.

The bands bio states that "DESTRUCTOR is well on its way to being one of the most powerful metal-thrashin' bands of today". I'm certainly not going to argue with that.

For more info write to: DESTRUCTOR, 2133 Miami Rd., Euclid, Ohio 44117, USA.

BERNARD DOE

STEEL PROPHET

Coming from Connecticut, they are supposed to take the town by storm, with live appearances, two demo tapes and with praise from critics and audiences (wait till you hear my comments) they are on the move.

The new tape boasts two new members - Wayne Faircloth and Steve Arexo, giving the band a new forceful and dynamic sound. On the cards too is a video containing the best moments of their two tapes. According to the bumpf they are breaking Heavy Metal barriers with vengeance which I find very hard to believe as the last band to do that in my minds eye were VAN HALEN and that was around eight years ago. So I have given this tape serious listening and have come up with the following conclusions.

"Murder Of Hart Northey" kicks the six track affair off and god is it awful! Really boring sub-SABBATH guitar work, which never seems to end. Although this was only the first song I had a feeling things could only get better!

Thank Heavens for "Cry For The Mountains" which starts with a gem of a riff and has a good chugg-a-long feel to it. I did feel the vocals let it down a bit as they sounded a bit strained to me. Next up was "The Ascetic" which has a very sixtyish feel to



it with some pretty swirly guitar at the beginning, but needless to say it dissolves into some more mindless plod - tired and totally unwanted. The same can be said for "Nowhere To Run" (good title eh!) which is in a similar vein. "Wings Of Steel" is the guitar solo which, again is boring. Boys it has all been done before but better, good packaging and videos cannot hide bad material I'm afraid.

Lastly there's "Revelations", which is a fast thrashy song which should be good live even if it doesn't come across that well on tape. In conclusion I would plump for TROUBLE or MEGADETH anyday!

Write to:- STEEL PROPHET, 44 Ferry St., Middletown, CT 06457, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS

WINGED ASSASSIN

Americans living in Norfolk, England with a rock band whose name brings thoughts of an over-the-top W.A.S.P. (sic), MALICE type onslaught. Sadly this vision shattered into a million pieces upon hearing the demo. Pub-Rock anyone?

Credit where credits due, the demo is well produced and the musicianship isn't bad, it's just that like a lot of stuff that's getting pushed my way these days it just doesn't do anything for me at all.

If I were to pick a 'favourite' track out

of the six on offer, then at a push, I'd probably plump for "We're Gonna Make It" which is very up-tempo and features some very good drumming. The current line-up is Bill Kelley (guitars), Mark Madara (bass/vocals) and Brian Phillips (drums/vocals).

The demo, containing "Lady In Red", "Mail Order Woman", "My Life Held Within", "Pay The Price" and "The Way I Feel" as well as the aforementioned cut can be obtained by sending 2 US dollars or 2 pounds sterling to: G.W. Vega, Box 4806, RAF Lakenheath, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 9PN, ENGLAND.

DAVE REYNOLDS

STILETTO

At last a band not from the New York area. This lot are from sunny California, a good name to begin with, they were formed about a year ago with what they say is a single goal, of rising to the top of the metal tree. They have played a number of club dates in the Bay Area and are currently looking for a record deal (sounds like an introduction to Miss World!).

As there are only two tracks on this tape I have kept the review short - also please send more info with the tapes, like line-ups etc.

The tape kicks off with "Too Illegal" a great storming track with great guitar work and great vocals. The band reminds me a bit of the SCORPIONS in style. The songs are fast, furious and have guts, which is unlike some of the bands I have had demos of lately.

"Through The Night" is much in a similar vein with the vocalist screaming his heart out. Out of the demo's I've reviewed for this issue I would say this was the best. STILETTO don't make false claims but just let the music do the talking.

For more info: STILETTO c/o Michael Jerant, 6814 Lazy River Way, San Jose, CA 95120, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS



WALLOP



What a bloody stupid name for a band - almost as bad as that US obscurity BANG of a good few years ago. Still WALLOP, from Germany are far and away the best band I've had to review for inclusion in Demo-ition this issue. A lot of this is due to the fantastic ability of guitarist Andreas Lorz. Definately a star in the making is this boy. Listen to him crank out the riffs on "Reveal The Lies" then tell me I'm dreaming.. and "Monsters" is awesome, Lorz is truly amazing on this track, aided every inch of the way by the rhythm section of Stefan Arnold (drums) and Stefan Fleischer (bass). Stefan Niefeling (why didn't they just call the band Stefanrodd?!) handles the vocals but is at present the weak link although he proves to be very good when it comes to the slow stuff such as the excellent 'ballad' of sorts in "Some Kind Of Pain", proving that WALLOP are one of the few bands who can excel at doing the slower material as well as more 'metal' material, such as the last track on the demo "Metallize" - good stuff. Keep an eye on this band. I'd also suggest labels check them out soon.

Contact: Ralph Grauphner, WALLOP Management, Alte Mainstr. 15, 6234 Hattersheim 3, WEST GERMANY.

DAVE REYNOLDS

HAMMERSCHMITT

This five-piece from Frankfurt in West Germany consist of Edu (vocals), Andy (lead guitar), Schmitti (rhythm guitar), H.D.Wolf (bass) and Ralf (drums) and were formed in 1980.

HAMMERSCHMITT's latest demo features four numbers all of which are very IRON MAIDEN orientated especially "Fevers In The City" and "The Wizard" where vocalist Edu comes over as a cross between Paul Di'anno and Rob Halford.

"Breaking The Law" and "Devil's Cry" are the remaining numbers and should all be featured on the bands debut album being recorded for Rockport Records in Germany later this year.

For more info write to: HAMMERSCHMITT, Regine Pohlman, Neuhofstr. 42, 6000 Frankfurt, WEST GERMANY.

KEN ANTHONY



ATOMKRAFT

No doubt many of you ardent underground metal fans out there will remember an excellent two-track demo ("Total Metal" and "Death Valley") that appeared on the scene by a band from Newcastle called ATOMKRAFT featuring some of the heaviest most menacing metal ever to come out of the UK. Well unfortunately shortly after that demo was recorded, founding member Tony Dolan (vocals/bass) disbanded ATOMKRAFT and moved to Canada to seek "fame and fortune!". Well unfortunately things didn't turn out the way Tony had planned and he's recently returned to England and reformed ATOMKRAFT.

Tony first recruited ex-TYSON DOG drummer Ged Wolf who together auditioned numerous guitarists before discovering Rob Matthew.

The bands latest three-track demo sees ATOMKRAFT sticking to their hardcore metal roots on the fast paced metal attack of "Pour The Metal In", but at the same time adopting a more accessible sound in the shape of "Burn In Hell" and the slower pounding metal of "Carousel".

ATOMKRAFT will soon be recording their debut album for Neat Records - a release I'm certainly looking forward to. Meanwhile more info on the band can be obtained by writing to: ATOMKRAFT, 10 Lutherworth Road, Longbenton, Tyne & Wear, NE12 8QQ, ENGLAND.

BERNARD DOE

MONTAGE

No relation to the British band knocking around the clubs a while ago, but a Detroit (oh no not Detroit!) based band whose promo sheet contains some excellent material and I quote "MONTAGE defies the practice of labels and categories, drawing from rich and varied influences and constantly striving for originality in such a raw and honest manner. It might be deemed 'obsessive' in spite of a locale where the draw for entertainment consists mostly of Top 40 units, MONTAGE continues to bite and claw for the opportunity to prove an honest performance and a sense of artistic dignity can both win support and entertain" good stuff eh, did you understand it? Not to worry because I have the tape and can give the true answers.

Just before we begin the delve into the tape the band consists of James Cleaver (bass/vocals), Randy Cook (drums), and Michael Cini (lead guitar). As they say "explanations are needless because the music is what this is all about and we feel it speaks for itself and amply so". Pretentious crap I call it.

Well the music is just like the press hand out - total rubbish. It consists only of a heavy bass line present through all six songs, which distorts at all opportunities. The rest can only be described as a cross between Jazz and Metal with all the songs, in my opinion, being made up as they go along. The vocals would shame a dog wining, it is truly horrid.

How a band could put this out and expect anyone to listen to it and give it a serious review is beyond me. I won't bother going through the tracks because they are all the same and worthless. I suggest that you avoid this tape at all costs. Inovative people may reply to my comments, to that I'll just answer crap!

MONTAGE C/O Michael Cini, 3433 Metcalfra, Port Huron, Mich 48060, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS



WILD AXES

WILD AXES were formed back in 1980, but despite the name and unlike a lot of German bands they are not a Black/Speed Metal band but more melodic heavy rock sounding.

"Eat It Up" is a good hard rocker and the DEF LEPPARD sounding "Rock Fever" (the demos best track) shows a lot of promise but generally the material is fairly average and doesn't do much for me, especially "Lonely Trooper" where the band sound like a poor man's MAMAS BOYS.



If WILD AXES, - whose line-up consists of Thomas Horst (vocals), Alexander Beyrodt (lead guitar), Klaus Weber (rhythm guitar) Clemens Scheid (bass), Steffen Fritze (keyboards) and Franz Schmidt (drums) - want a record deal they will have to write much stronger material than this, that's for sure.

For more info on the band and details of getting hold of their 5-track demo write to: WILD AXES, Wilhelm-Jung-StraBe 5, 6680 Neunkirchen, WEST GERMANY. But forget it if you are into real metal.

KEN ANTHONY

ARMED FORCES

In issue No. 4 I predicted great things for this five-piece outfit from New York. Those observations were made on the strength of an un-mixed advance tape of the band's debut mini-album, "Let There Be Metal". One track in particular "Intruder" was proclaimed by myself as an all-time power metal classic on a par with METALLICA's "Whiplash". However to my disappointment when the final product hit the streets the tracks sounded over produced and lacking the overall rawness and aggression of the originals. Don't get me wrong, the album was still a fine debut and was more than a fine indication of the bands potential to become a high class metal act, it's just that I'll think twice about going so OTT in a review of an album from an un-mixed tape again.

Since the release of "Let There Be Metal", ARMED FORCES have undergone some drastic changes in both image and line-up. Only original members Michael Manne (guitar) and Steven Tetro (bass) remain from the quintet who recorded the album. The new members are Kevin Burns (vocals), Billy "Flash" Blakk (guitar) and Donte "Madman" Renzi (drums).

The new line-up recently recorded a new demo featuring no less than 18 numbers, 4 of which have been sent to METAL FORCES for review.

The first track "Ninth Day Be Damned" is a strong rocker of the highest order where new vocalist Kevin Burns sounds like a more aggressive Steve Tyler. The faster paced "Machine Gun Alley" is more metal orientated and features some great soloing from Michael Manne, while both "Soldier Of Fortune" and "Outrage" (the best track), although more pedestrian in construction, enhances the bands potential laid down on their album.

Overall there can be no doubt that ARMED FORCES have a more commercial edge than on previous material, but have still remained heavy, endeavouring to appeal to the widest possible audience - a policy that doesn't

ACTRESS

ACTRESS were formed three years ago and were voted Best New Band of 1983 by Heavy Metal Times, they are now becoming the most talked about band in LA. Armed with an arsenal of powerchords, heavy facial make-up and enough raw theatrical energy to light up a small city; ACTRESS look set up to be the new Kings of Rock'n'Roll. ACTRESS comprises of: Ace Steele (guitars/backing vocals), Corey L'Amour (bass/backing vocals), Vinni Stiletto (lead vocals) and Jamie Mansfield (drums).

Their one track demo "She's A Teeze" is nothing short of excellent, Vinni Stiletto comes on as a cross between Stephen Pearcy and Blackie Lawless. Amongst a barrage of riffs Ace Steele's lightning lead guitar work can be heard. Randy Rhoads meets Andy Scott would be the best way to describe him. Yes a very impressive one tracker indeed; even though I had a crappy copy. W.A.S.P. be warned, ACTRESS could easily steal the limelight if pushed in the right direction. Ace Steele says "For me the philosophy behind ACTRESS is the same reason that we chose the bands name. We all share a love for the Hollywood of old, the glamour, the glitter



always pay off. Personally I'd like to see the band return to the more frenzied metal attack of "The Intruder" and "Let There Be Metal". However by all accounts the remaining tracks on the 18-track demo, which I've not heard, contain much more heavier material, and with the band currently gaining a lot of interest from top independent and major record labels worldwide it will be fascinating to see what direction the band take with their next album, tentively entitled "Heavy Artillery".

For more info write to: ARMED FORCES, 41-06 55 Street- Woodside, NY 11377, USA.

BERNARD DOE



and the epic proportions of everything involved." Yep, I'm afraid another LA band to add to the list. What with TOUGH LOVE, LEATHER KNICKERS and KERRY DOLL back on the scene who knows where it will end!

Contact: ACTRESS, 1765 North Highland Avenue, Suite 1116, Hollywood, CA, 90028, USA.

KELV HELLRAZER

IRON ANGEL

The serge of German Black Metal bands continues. Formed back in April 1983, "Legions Of Evil" is IRON ANGEL's second demo. The first, "Iron Angel", has already gained the band a strong following in Europe and especially in the USA where IRON ANGEL receive a lot of radio airplay on the metal radio stations across the country.

"Legions....." has to be one of the best Black/Speed metal demos ever, being both powerful and well executed. Vocalist Dirk Schroder too, comes across as a strong frontman - the Robert Halford of Black Metal - listen in particular to "Legion Of Evil".

Musically its no let-up from the word go as the band power through such Satanic frenzies as "Metallian", "Church Of The Lost Souls", "Legion Of Evil", "Heavy Metal Soldiers" (check out the excellent riff on this track), "Rush Of Power" (a live cut) and "Sinner 666" which is a kind of cross between METALLICA and SLAYER.



IRON ANGEL, who consist of Dirk Schroder (vocals), Sven Struven and Peter Wittke (both guitars), Thorsten Lohmann (bass) and Mike Matthes (drums), have just finished recording their debut album "Hellish Cross-fire" for the German based Steamhammer label. The album will contain all the tracks from the "Legions of Evil" demo together with "Black Mass", "Son Of A Bitch" and "Nightmare".

Both IRON ANGEL demos are still available prices £3.00 (\$4.00 or 10DM) each including postage (please pay in cash) from: IRON ANGEL F.C., "Legions Of Evil", c/o Stefan Meier, Am Markt 1, D-2732 Sittensen, WEST GERMANY.

BERNARD DOE

DEMONAX

This metal quartet featuring Keith B. (vocals), Frank A. (guitar), Brian R. (bass) and John G. (drums) from Connecticut have recently released a five track demo tape entitled "Play That Metal Mean".

To be honest the opening track "Underground" is far from convincing but the quality does improve with "Down On Your Knees" with its rather catchy chorus.

Even better is "Lay Down The Law" - a menacing assault of power metal with some great leadwork. "Authority" and "Play It Loud" are adequate fast paced rockers but suffer slightly from a weak vocal performance.

For more info write to: DEMONAX, P.O.Box 333, Marlborough, CT 06447, USA.

BERNARD DOE

ATTICA

ATTICA is amongst the new generation of Danish metal acts, and were formed late last year. The band consists of Martin Johnson (vocals) ex-SHYLOCK, Mort Trager (drums) ex-LIZARD, Henk Monter (guitar) and Jannick Haven (bass) both ex-WARLOCK and TALON.

Earlier this year ATTICA recorded their first demo featuring two tracks, "Do You Want My Love" and "Breaking Out". Both tracks, especially "Breaking Out" have a commercial edge but remain powerful, similar to latter day TYGERS OF PAN TANG.



The band are still searching for a record deal and more info can be obtained by writing to: ATTICA c/o Jan Borsing, Dalboug 2, 8210 Arhus V. DENMARK.

KEN ANTHONY

STORMBRINGER



Not to be confused with the Swiss Rainbow clones, this Swedish act were formed in 1982 and despite being grossly underproduced have quite a neat line in metallic wall of noise style material. I was truly blown away by the unbearable but delightful chaos of "Free". There are traces of a more subtle style evident and if they were given a good producer to work with then they could do very well indeed world-wide, the signs are there. Check out "The Tale" and the excellent "Fire In My Eyes". Just hear that guitar sound... crushing to say the least! The band is: Jake Langsome (drums), Rudy B. Jade (vocals), Mizch Tammer (bass), Sandy Russel (guitar) and Gregg Alize (guitar). Promising. Very promising.

Info: Johan Renck, Lugna Gatan 39, 21159, Malmo, SWEDEN.

DAVE REYNOLDS

TANTRUM

"We wanna head towards the BONJOVI/TERRA-PLANE market" says guitarist Phil Aston (ex-HANDSOME BEASTS/ROGUE MALE). TANTRUM are based in Solihull and were formed at Xmas '84. The line-up is as follows: Neil Yeonans (vocals), Mark Braddock (keyboards), Paul Kelly (bass), Paul Cook (drums) and Phil Aston (guitars). Bassist Paul Kelly is the brother of SHY drum lasher Alan Kelly and of course the band are based in SHYtown aka Solihull.



The three track demo that was given to me is a real grower. At first I heard it and thought it wasn't that special but after a few plays I discovered myself humming tunes on the way to work etc. My favourite out of the three tracks is "Don't Go Away" which features a delicate keyboard intro and then develops into a true piece of pomp rock with heavy US influences. "Julie's Gotta Wart" is a bit bland for my liking, sickly commercial ala QUIET RIOT's first LP. Much better is "Take A Chance" with nice harmony vocals and the electric drum work is excellent. It's hard to find a nearest comparison for this band; which is definately a plus point for them originality wise.

By the time you read this TANTRUM will have done their first London date. I'll guarantee that there won't be much ligging going on in the bar. Write to: TANTRUM: 77 Mayswood Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B82 8JF, ENGLAND.

KELV HELLRAZER

INTENSE MUTILATION

Playschool meets Rockscool. Ha Ha, very very funny children. This 'demo' to use a nice phrase is DOGSHIT! The 'musicians' of this 'band' are very sick people with an equally mental sense of humour which degrades those people with real mental illness. If you see this 'band' reviewed elsewhere ignore it. You will be ripped off left right and centre if you send five dollars to this mob (who I note didn't send us a photo to show us how 'Metal' they really are!) This isn't just my opinion it's one that's shared by everybody connected with METAL FORCES and you know that Bernard Doe at least is hardly a 'poser'. INTENSE MUTILATION claim that if magazines don't like them then we can go butt-fuck Michael Jackson. Sorry to disappoint you guys but I'm not gay, dislike Michael Jackson and am more than happy sexually with my girlfriend. Now to sue a Constable phrase, METAL FORCES pleads with you to F.O.A.D!

DAVE REYNOLDS

STEEL VENGEANCE

Yet another band making wild statements. This one begins by telling me that they are the first midwest band to bring the true meaning of what Heavy Metal is, with their 'Wild antics and agression the public could-n't help but notice'. Have I been missing something I ask myself?

Anyway enough of the padding, onto the straight facts. STEEL VENGEANCE were created in 1983 when guitarist Mike Wickstrom put together the first line-up who promptly released an EP on Kingdom Records (which incidently I have!) it then sold out thanks to a local radio station WLAV giving it good support. The EP by the way has since been re-issued and have been given decent distribution.

Despite everything looking so good, people got lazy so changes has to be made, first to join was Bob Lindstrom (guitar), the vocalist Scott Carlson and bassist Steve Cavalier, and lastly drummer Carl Elliot. Mike is pleased with this line-up and he promises it will improve on previous efforts. Well here is the tape and lets see what it's like shall we boys and girls?

Well to say I was shocked would be an understatement because the tape went to the two extremes. On one side there was the great "Your Time Has Come" and "Never Lettin Go", both of which with better production could go far, and on the other there was the truly horrid "Wartime Love" and "Beware The Wizard". Both of which should be dropped from a great height.



STEEL VENGEANCE show a lot of promise because all the songs have style but they all lack that certain push. I found the vocals weak and pushed to far back in the mix. The guitar work sounded good, with a couple of the songs having a Y&T feel to them, notably "Hard Man" which sounded like "Meanstreak". Anyway I'd advise you to investigate more.

Write to: STEEL VENGEANCE c/o Michael Wickstrom, 526 Glen Oaks Drive, APT 1 C, Muskegon, MI 49441, USA.

STEVE HAMMONDS.

Any bands wishing to be included in DEMO-LITION should send tape, photo and full band biography to: METAL FORCES, Demo-lition, 17 Livingstone Link, Chells, Stevenage, Herts., SG2 OEP, ENGLAND.

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